

The Mining Journal,

RAILWAY AND COMMERCIAL GAZETTE:

FORMING A COMPLETE RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF ALL PUBLIC COMPANIES.

No. 1024—VOL. XXV.]

LONDON, SATURDAY APRIL 7, 1855.

[PRICE 6d.

M. R. JAMES CROFTS, MINING BROKER,
No. 1, FINCH LANE, CORNHILL, LONDON, TRANSACTS BUSINESS,
in BUYING AND SELLING, for immediate cash.
DIVIDEND MINES, well selected, are the best of any known investments—paying from 15 to 20 per cent. per annum in dividends. The choice of NON-DIVIDEND MINES for speculation requires careful discrimination.

Mr. Crofts transacts every description of business connected with the STOCK EXCHANGE at the same rates of commission as charged by the brokers of that establishment.—Bankers: The Commercial Bank of London.

M. R. JAMES LANE has REMOVED from 23, to 29, THREADNEEDLE STREET, and continues to DEAL in DIVIDEND and LEADING MINES, at the closest market prices; and especially in the following:—
Alfred Consols Eaglebrook Sortridge Consols Trewetha
Bathswidens United Gomena South Carn Brea West Caradon
Bedford United Great Crinnis South Caradon West Damsel
Boscombe Hingston Down South Tamar West Providence
Brynhill Hall Marks Valley South Crever West Sortridge
Clydebank Molland Stray Park Wheal Arthur
Conishead North Wh. Trelawny Sheep Wheal Lovel
Dartmoor North Wh. Robert Tamar Consols Wheal Mary Ann
Devon Great Cons. Rosewarne Tincroft Wheal Trelawny
East Wheal Russell Rheloid United Trehane Wheal Wrey

M. R. J. B. BRENCHLEY, No. 2, PINNER'S COURT, OLD BROAD STREET, has SHARES FOR SALE in the following:—
1 Buller. 2 Brewer. 40 Zion.
1 Bassett. 2 South Garris. 50 West Polberro.
1 West Seton. 5 West Providence. 40 Mixon Consols.
1 Bodilack. 5 North Robert. 100 Cwm Darren.
1 Wheal Margaret. 40 Wheal Harriett. 20 Forkells.
10 Alfred. 50 Orsedd. 200 Molland.
3 Great Alfred. 50 Garreg. 200 Guskus.
10 Stray Park. 50 Gilmar. 50 Callington.
3 Trelawny. 50 East Vor. 100 Great Sortridge.
40 Wheal Edward. 50 South Crever. 25 Sortridge.
3 Wheal Arthur. 20 Trewetha. 15 East Russell.
20 Great Baden. 20 Wheal Golden. 20 Darren.
2 Mary Ann. 50 East Tamar. 100 Tremellett Downs.
20 Wheal Wrey. 50 Ludcock. 50 Vale of Towy.
WANTED.—Treharvan, at £2; South Devon, at 10s.

The London list of prices forwarded on application every Wednesday.

NOTICE OF REMOVAL.—Mr. W. LEMON OLIVER, STOCK AND SHAREBROKER, has REMOVED to No. 4, AUSTINFRIARS, OLD BROAD STREET, CITY. (Sworn Copy.)—April 6, 1855.

REMOVAL.—Mr. HENRY SIBLEY, STOCK, SHARE, AND MINING AGENT, has REMOVED from No. 3, Old Broad-street, to No. 4, BIRCHIN LANE, CORNHILL.

MESSERS. POWELL AND COOKE, DEALERS IN MINING SHARES, No. 8, HERCULES CHAMBERS, OLD BROAD STREET, LONDON.—The above continue to DEAL in the SHARES of all the leading DIVIDEND and good PROGRESSIVE MINES.—April 6, 1855.

MESSES. T. SPARGO AND CO., MINING AGENTS AND SHAREBROKERS, 70, CORNHILL, LONDON.

Gratuitous advice will be afforded to any gentleman requiring information respecting mining investments, upon application personally or by letter.

M. R. W. H. BRUMBY, STOCK AND SHAREBROKER,
No. 1, BRIDGE STREET, BATH, has BUSINESS TO TRANACT in the following MINES:—Alfred Consols, Wheal Zion, Great Alfred, Castle Dinas, West Polberro, Dairhiv, Nant-y-Car, Boscombe, and South Bedford.

* * * No notice taken of any but positive offers.

M. R. FRANCIS RIDGMAN, MINE SHAREBROKER,
TAVISTOCK, DEVON.

M. R. T. TYACK, MINE SHAREBROKER, AUCTIONEER, &c., CAMBORNE, CORNWALL.

M. R. E. GOMPERS, MINING SHARE DEALER,
98, GRACECHURCH STREET, LONDON.

M. R. HY. GOULD SHARP, MINING SHAREBROKER, has FOR SALE, or any part thereof, the following SHARES:—
1 Holland, 2s. 2d. 150 West Sortridge, 2s. 2d. 57 North Hingston, 1s. 9d.
30 Widgery, 3s. 5 West Alfred, 2s. 9d. 100 Liberty, 2s. 10d.
100 Guskus, 2s. 9d. 100 Great Cambrian, 1s. 9d. 50 Cwm Darren, 4s. 9d.
P.S. Business transacted in every description of mining shares, at the closest prices. Crosby Hall Chambers, Bishopsgate-street, London.

JAMES F. BODDY, No. 15, OLD BROAD STREET, LONDON, TRANSACTS BUSINESS in the undermentioned, or any other MINES quoted in the general List of the *Mining Journal*; and will be happy to forward any part of the prices.

Alfred Consols East Black Craig Nor. Hingston Cons. Tremellett Downs
Alfred Consols East Boscan Potimore United Mines
Ainsdale Gomena Par Consols West Bassett
Bathswidens Great Crinnis Phoenix Wheal Arthur
Bedford United Great Polgoeth Polberro Wheal Bassett
Brynhill Hall Garretton Pembr. & E. Crinnis Wheal Friendship
Gawton United Gilmar Pen-y-Gell Wheal Golden
Great Sheba Consols Cola (Limerick) Oakley Wheal Jane
Great Wheal Alfred Pendine Consols Wheal Mary Ann
Great Rough Tor Quintrell Downs Wheal Trefusis
Great Sortridge Ris Hill Wheal West Alfred
Herdfoot Rosewarne Wheal West Crinnis
Hingston Down Cons. Round Hill Wheal West Polberro
Hinton Down Cons. South Caradon Wheal Whitelegg
Hinton Down Cons. South Tamar Wheal Zion
Hinton Down Cons. Stray Park Wheal Phoenix
Hinton Down Cons. Vale of Towy Wheal West Sortridge
Hinton Down Cons. Trewetha Wheal West Wh. Friendah
Hinton Down Cons. Trelawny Wheal Wheal Gill
Hinton Down Cons. Tremellett Wheal Wheal Lode
Hinton Down Cons. Trewetha Wheal Wheal Ludcott
Hinton Down Cons. Trewetha Wheal Wheal Surprise
Nor. Wh. Trelawny Tamar Maria Yeo Land Consols
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20 Wh. Mary Great 20 Nant-y-Car 100 North Hingston
20 West Consols 50 Tregone Consols 5 West Alfred
20 West Consols 50 Tregone Consols 5 Great Alfred
20 West Sortridge 5 West Phoenix 5 E. Gunn Lake 1 Great Alfred
100 Consols and 100 Devon Tin 100 Molland 35 East Tamar 20 Round Hill
20 Great Sortridge 40 West Polberro 100 Dalriah 100 Great Hugo
WANTED.—Stridore Consols, Bedford United, East Gennis Lake, South Frances, Trewhella Consols, Carn Brea, and others.

H.R. As so many parties have applied for the Cost-book Laws and Regulations, Mr. Boddy will be happy to forward a correct printed copy to any part of the kingdom, on receipt of six postage stamps.

Stock Exchange business transacted for the usual commission.

APRIL 6, 1855. Bankers: Sir John Wm. Lubbock, Bart., and Co.

M. R. FULLER AND CO., 51, THREADNEEDLE-STREET, LONDON, continue to ADVISE CAPITALISTS upon the description of MINING PROPERTY; and beg respectfully to call attention to the present favourable opportunity of PURCHASEING in both BRITISH and FOREIGN DIVIDEND and PROGRESSIVE MINES, a careful selection of which cannot fail to remunerate all who invest, many of them paying profits of from 15 to 20 per cent.

T. FULLER and Co., being in daily communication with agents of practical experience of the principal mines of Devon, Cornwall, and Wales, are in a position to furnish every information, either personally or by letter, and all instructions promptly attended to. Every kind of business transacted upon Stock Exchange principles.

N.B. Office hours from Ten till Five o'clock.

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Original Correspondence.

MINERAL PRODUCE OF AUSTRALIA.

SIR.—Since my return from Australia in January last, I have met with several of your readers, who have desired me to give them some mining information, in reference to Australia, through your Journal.

The following is an approximate return of copper and lead ores raised in South Australia since the first discovery of our metalliferous deposits:

Copper mines—	Tons	South Kapunda.....	Tons	200
Kangaroo	75	Kangaroo.....	12,650	
K. manganite	3,441	Princess Royal.....	588	
Ditto, leased portions	560	North Rhine.....	100	
Parlins	512	Port Lincoln.....	550	
Ditto, leased portions	300	Royal Mining Company.....	60	
Montacute	2,000	Dutton's Mine.....	50	
Alealade	560	Strathalbyn.....		
Enterprise	200	Breadalbane.....	250	
Beedy Creek	1,200	Glenalbyn.....		
Total Tons.....	115,520			

Silver-lead mines—

Glen Osmund.....	Tons	1,000	Wheal Margaret.....	Tons	120
Wheal Watkins.....	1,200		Wheal Brothers.....	40	
Wheal Granger.....	90		Belvidere.....	100	
Total tons.....	2,629				

The value of 115,520 tons of copper ore, at 15/- per ton, would be the sum of £732,800/-; and of 2629 tons of silver-lead ores, at 15/- per ton, £29,45/-, making together £762,235/- already derived from the mines of the colony of South Australia. The bulk of these ores was raised between the years 1844 and 1850. We are assured that, reckoning every person employed (including men, women, and children) in raising and preparing ores, the mining population of the colony, even before the gold fields were discovered, never exceeded 3000 souls; so that the aggregate returns of their productive industry in those years averaged nearly 600/- per head. It should be borne in mind that nothing approaching to a state of exhaustion has resulted from such extensive productiveness.

The Burra Burra, which has yielded so large a proportion of the aggregate above mentioned, is still rich in the quality of its ores, in its manifestly great productive capabilities, and in the prospective wealth which is more than likely to confirm the most flattering predictions of practical and scientific men.

The Kapunda's ores have averaged full 21 per cent., and at this rate the produce of the mine must have amounted to the large sum of £27,700/- Even in 1848 as many as eight lodes had been discovered, and were all producing ores of good quality: and as the mine is, no doubt, only just coming into a good course of working, it is difficult to form an estimate of the value or the extent of its future productiveness.

Several of the mines referred to above have given earnest of future metalliferous wealth, rather than of the absolute and profitable yield, which claims especial descriptive record; but in many instances this earnest has been quite sufficient to satisfy the sagacious and experienced mind, and to form strong grounds of favourable calculation for the future, when perhaps the mineral products of south Australia will be rich, various, and vast, beyond the most sanguine anticipations of the present day.

I will, as leisure permits, give your readers a description of the character of the strata, &c., in which the mines are found, and also of the gold fields generally. I having been in Australia nine years.

J. B. PASCOE.

GOVERNMENT MINE INSPECTORS—MR. MACKWORTH.

SIR.—A late number of your Journal contains a letter from an anonymous correspondent, signing himself "Coal Miner," which appears to be one of a series, having for its object to depreciate the value of the services of the present Government Mining Inspectors, and to demonstrate their unfitness for the posts they occupy. Having the honour of the acquaintance of one of them, whose name has been especially selected (Mr. Mackworth), and known him now for 15 years, I can state that your correspondent's letter conveys groundless insinuations, and greatly misrepresents the character and qualifications of that gentleman.

My acquaintance with Mr. Mackworth commenced during the two years he availed himself of the assistance to study presented by the engineering and mining department of King's College, and gained the first prizes of his year. Since that time he has been uninterruptedly connected with engineering and mining works. He learnt the practical part of his profession on the Sheffield and Manchester Railway, and the Woodhead Tunnel, the longest at that time in England, which took seven years to complete. Eight railways and branches in the northern counties have been laid out under his superintendence; amongst them, I will only, however, refer to the Huddersfield and Manchester line, one-fifth of the length of which passes underground; there are on it, besides, eight viaducts, four tunnels in the coal strata and millstone grit, and it employed at one time above 4000 workmen. The Stanhope Tunnel, the longest in England, was executed under Mr. Mackworth's immediate superintendence, in the unprecedented time of 3½ years. The impression intended to be conveyed by "Coal Miner" that Mr. Mackworth is without experience in his profession as an engineer, is, therefore, incorrect. In short, including his knowledge of English and continental mining, it would be hard to name any engineer who has had more varied experience in mining operations, or who could more appropriately have been selected by Sir Henry De la Beche to undertake the responsible duties of a Government Mining Inspector, from upwards of 100 candidates.

From what I know of Mr. Mackworth, I feel certain that he cannot but regard such attacks as those that have accidentally crept into your columns with any other feeling than contempt; but as they tend to mislead the class your correspondent assumes to represent, the intelligence of that body will, perhaps, appreciate a simple statement of facts, as much as the lengthy epistles of your aspiring correspondent, "Coal Miner." [I beg to enclose my card.]—April 3.

C. E.

GOVERNMENT INSPECTORS.—SEATON COLLIERY.

SIR.—A report is prevalent here, that the six additional mine inspectors about to be appointed, or who are already appointed, are to pass an examination as to their fitness and qualifications for such offices on the 16th inst., before Nicholas Wood, Esq., colliery owner and viewer.

With respect to the eminence of Mr. Wood's position, and his abilities for the work allotted him, no one would presume to call them in question; but it is to be hoped that Sir G. Grey will not so far forget what is likely to be the result of such appointment. Should it be true that Mr. Wood has to examine these parts, will the mining body be satisfied that the examination will be an impartial one, when Mr. Wood has, along with the whole of the agents of the coal trade, agreed to a resolution that no more inspectors were necessary, and who, along with other agents, has always been opposed to any inspection at all? Can, I repeat, the miners feel assured that the party who discard *in toto* the necessity for inspection, be likely to be careful whether the said inspectors are duly qualified or not? Indeed, as matters stand, and with these facts before us, it becomes Mr. Wood's interest, and the interest of the trade he is so largely embarked in, to pass for inspectors the least possible efficient men, and thus save themselves from the necessarily strict surveillance. Besides, who are the additional inspectors? The miners have never been advised with—not a word has reached them officially as to who are the selected gentlemen. As the miners not interested in such appointments? Is it not to them as a life and death question who may be so appointed? The facts are these—the Government ought to observe that the miners are the only parties for whose especial advantage the Inspection Bill is needed; and that, second to the necessity for such bill, are the necessary and proper men for carrying out the objects thereof; whereas the owners and managers of collieries are interested (not really so) in keeping inspection as far off as possible; but, as the necessity has been so far proved as not to admit of it being shirked, then the next best thing for the owners is to have the choice of the most suitable persons—those who will not annoy them by being too officious—who will just make a show of authority, and allow them (the owners) to escape with the least possible harm.

In taking this view of the matter, I am free to confess that I am anxious Sir G. Grey will not so far overlook the welfare of the mining with evil consequences. What would be thought of allowing knaves to choose the examiners, who have to exercise a similar jurisdiction as pertains to a mine inspector? or what would be the consequences to the community if prisoners at the criminal bar were to choose the judge and the jury who had to decide upon their criminality, &c.? Yet, are the owners of collieries placed at the bar of morality? And have they not been, as a body, found guilty of neglecting their workmen's health, and not taking proper care of their lives? Will it not, therefore, be an outrage on humanity to allow them, through one of their body, to select the men who shall be appointed to the offices of mine inspectors?

In proof of the inutility of Mr. Wood, or any other of those interested in coal mines (for I do not object to Mr. Wood in particular, but the principle proposed to be carried out), I enclose you a "Circular," which has been addressed by Mr. Dunn, the Government Inspector of this district, in manuscript, to the workmen of Seaton Colliery, by which it will be seen that the said colliery is not in a very enviable state, the head-viewer and the under-viewer being at variance; whilst the greatest necessity exists for harmony of action in carrying on so dangerous a colliery. Mr. Wood is connected with the said colliery—I believe the chief manager thereof: how, then, can we expect that he will judiciously select persons for the miners' advantage, when the parties who are managers at Seaton do not give satisfaction, either to the workmen or the mine inspector, or perhaps to the owners? The workmen of Seaton, I understand, are about to memorialise Sir G. Grey, inasmuch as, since the "Circular" was printed, and copies sent to the owners, Mr. Wood included, three of them have got notice to quit the colliery, and, as they allege, for being suspected of taking part in such printing and circulation.

I trust, however, that Sir G. Grey will not so far overlook the welfare of the mining body as to leave the choice of inspectors to any single individual, or individuals, so closely interested in the trade as the owners and managers of collieries are.

M. JONES.

IRON SHOT FOR RIFLE-CANNON.

SIR.—My expanding shot of the year 1823 was derived from the Malay arrow, with its expanding base formed of the pith of the lotus plant. The principle of my present shot is, that the sabot of cork, or other matter, such as sawdust, compressed by a powerful engine, such as an hydraulic press, shall expand into the spiral groove of a rifle-cannon, and communicate the rotatory motion to the iron shot without the shot being itself rifled, thus no injury can affect the rifling of the cannon, or other rifled arm.—*Buxton Hotel, April 5.*

J. NEARON.

LIMITED LIABILITY OF SHAREHOLDERS.

SIR.—Your correspondent, "One who fears the Cost-book System," need not have feared, I should have thought, to have seen his name in print. I dislike anonymous letters—they are too often made the vehicle of private pique; but as, in the present case, nothing personal is involved (except, indeed, a gentle stroke at the party who thinks that the accounts of a mining partnership can be properly kept without a ledger), I will endeavour to reply to the questions addressed to me—viz., "In what circumstances do the disadvantages of limited liability manifest themselves?"

The limited liability here referred to, I understand to relate to mining partnerships only—not to joint-stock companies in general.

The better to elucidate the subject, it may be well for us to begin at the beginning, and consider how a mining company (at the first working of a mine) originates.

Let us suppose that a promising lode having been discovered in some mine, a proprietor of the neighbouring land for leaves to search "therein for 12 months; and then, if the lode be found worth prosecuting, to have a sett for 21 years, on the usual conditions. The lord gives a memorandum in writing to this effect, which, if prepared by his steward or solicitor, may cost (any) two guineas. The applicant, now the grantee, associates a few friends with him, and employs some miners to excavate for the lode. In two or three months it may have been discovered, and found sufficiently inviting to induce further outlay. The few proprietors then meet to make a contribution according to their several shares, to pay the costs incurred, and provide for those of the next few months. On this occasion, perhaps, a cost-book is first produced, commencing with a copy or abstract of the license to work, and then a memorandum, stating the number of shares it is agreed to divide the concern into (perhaps 32 or 64), and the number to be held by each adventurer, including the grantee, whose signature, and that of the other shareholders, to this memorandum, constitutes the complete legal formation of a mining company, and at an expense (say) of 60/-, viz., for license and cost-book. These two items, and particulars of the work done by the miners, being further entered in the cost-book, and a call made and paid, any adventurer is at liberty to dispose of his shares, and which shares are equally of the promised sort or lease as of the existing license.

If, in a few months, prospects of successffulness, and it is not thought worth while to incur the expense of a lease, with the exception of the license, the company also expires; and the whole expense of forming, carrying on, and winding up, has, in some cases in my experience, been under 10/-.

If, on the contrary, the lode or lodes prove productive, the lease is duly taken up, and expenses go on, and calls to meet them. The adventurers meet once in two or three months, to audit accounts, and make the needful calls. We will suppose them practical men, who know that, if any liability be not brought forward, they are liable for it just as if it appeared in the account; they, therefore, feel the necessity of having a purser, whom they can trust, to let them know the real state of their affairs, as well as to hold the purse-strings. When there is confidence that all liabilities are entered, the prudent adventurer has next to ascertain that receipts for everything charged at the preceding meeting are produced at the present meeting. He then feels satisfied that all is right; and, if enquired of whether he would like a law to be passed for limiting the liability of shareholders, he might enquire in what way a mine could be worked as such a system.

In case neither he nor the other adventurers were liable for labour or goods supplied to the mine, or liable only each for his own share of every separate supply, he could not expect miners or merchants to give credit.

Should it then be attempted to carry on a mine by paying cash for everything—labour and goods, the difficulties as respects the latter would be great, though, perhaps, not insuperable; but all persons acquainted with mining know that, on the present (good) system of supplying the workmen with candles, powder, &c., it is necessary, and also for enforcing the completion of contracts, to keep a month's wages in hand, and, therefore, to be always in debt to the men one month, and part of another month's earnings. To meet, however, this wages debt, the materials, were of sufficient value, might continuall be available, by summary process, as at present. Further, all calls must be made in advance, to provide the means for these cash payments, doubtless some parties, from absence or other causes, would not have paid in time, and then the mine must either stop or be carried on by the funds of part only of the adventurers; and all methods of recovering debts by creditors from shareholders being done away with, this non-liability would, if I mistake not, be found to operate as a premium upon default, and, therefore, an injury to mining, and to the whole calling.

It is suggested that shareholders may be made responsible up to a certain amount per share, such a plan, however applicable to companies with a fixed capital, is not so to mining. It would partly with a view to meet this point that I have described the commencement of a mine. A fixed capital, it will have been seen, is foreign to the Cornish mining. Instances have been known of mines requiring no capital at all—not a single call. To take the two principal mines of the district in which I reside—South and West Cadron: the capital required for the former was only 50/- per share for 250 shares, £40/-; while the present price of these shares being 300/-, the value of the mine is now £7,500/- The capital required for West Cadron proved to be 30/- per 250 share, and the present value (at 300/- per share) is £9,900/-

Now, at the commencement of West Cadron, if we had, judging from the small capital required by our neighbours across the stream, fixed our capital at 2500/-, as ample sufficient, and by some rules and regulations, intended as an improvement of the Cost-book System, had divided our mine into 250 shares of 10/- each, and thus precluded ourselves from making calls to share than that amount, in what a foolish position should we not have placed ourselves.

If we thus arrive at the conclusion that fixed capital, and, consequently, any restriction of liabilities to a fixed amount per share, is inapplicable to mining companies, and that the removal of liability from shareholders involves cash payments for everything, and, consequently, the making anticipatory calls, which could not be enforced in time to be available, and, if enforced at all, only perhaps by proceedings in equity, where is the advantage, I would ask, of limited liability, or of no liability, or of a scheme I have heard of, of having some adventurers liable, and others not—some working men, who are to be subject to all the risks, and some "sleeping partners," who are to run no risk at all? Unless the working men of this scheme are to be paid at much higher rates than are current in Cornwall for mining services, I think we shall most of us prefer being "found napping."

The very inexpensive mode of forming, carrying on, and winding up a mining company under the pure Cost-book System (without rules and regulations)—the moderate degree of trouble (either to oneself, or, if more convenient, by depicting some trustworthy person) to attend mine meetings, and ascertain that all obligations are regularly discharged—the great improbability of any mode being found of relieving mining shareholders from risk of debt, and yet affording them a good chance of profit (for such an advantage must be paid for in some way, and copper, as well as gold, may be bought too dear), lead me to fear, not the Cost-book System, like my querist, but any tampering with it; and if the lawyers once lay their hands on us, by obliging us to go through I know not what forms, and expensive ones, too, in order legally to constitute a mining company (as under the Joint-Stock Companies Acts), I cannot but think that mining will sustain a heavy blow, and some of our landed proprietors no small loss.—*Liskeard, 29th of 3d month, 1855.*

EDWARD A. CROUCH.

LIGHTS ON LODES.—HOT AND COLD WATER IN MINES.

SIR.—I this day had an opportunity for a few minutes of perusing your useful Journal, where I see that my pretended friends have given me rather a hard task—that is, if they expect me to reply to their queries this week. I ask, Mr. Editor, one week's grace more, as any one acquainted with these affairs must know that it is quite sufficient, when on a tour of inspection, to go underground each day, dine, and drink a glass with the agents, answer letters, and write two reports of each mine; after which, to ride 10 or 20 miles, to be in readiness for the ensuing day. I ask this with a view of backing out of what may be supposed a dilemma, as I fear them not, and shall most certainly reply.

Mr. Henwood I thank for his views, and the way in which he puts his questions on the subject. He, seeing my remarks last week, will now look to some more authentic source than that of "Junius," and hearsay, before he chronicles them as facts.

If "G. D." had the candour of "A. K." he would have given his genuine name to the public, or to me in private—without which I shall only reply to him once.

I always make statements which I am prepared to prove, and am, therefore, never afraid to affix my name to anything I write; at the same time, I wish to contend with an antagonist who is not involved in mystery; and I hope to produce better results than grandfather's tales or by-gone traditions.

I am led to believe, from the tenor of their remarks, that they are brought forward more spite from than to elicit knowledge: probably they may come from a correspondent for some time past lost to your columns.

If parties will mine in districts where they will never find copper enough to pay for their candle-light, I cannot help it; why, therefore, turn malignantly on me, when it is not my fault, but their own, and only the fruits and consequences of incapacity falling on those to whom they belong. My remarks were given only to recall them from their erroneous proceedings.

Parties would not, certainly, for a moment suppose them capable of drawing the unwary into speculations in such barren districts, merely for the few paltry pounds they receive as salary.—*Redruth, April 4.*

CARBONIFEROUS ROCKS—LIGHTS ON LODES.

SIR.—At the risk of being wearisome, I again address Capt. Ennor on the subjects he has been so kind as to inform me upon. To take, first, the matter of carboniferous rocks being entirely unworthy of investigation for lead or copper mines to produce a profit, I beg to quote the words of the author of the Government Geological Survey, whose geological map was my foundation in a former letter. Sir Henry De la Beche says—"The great copper lode of Wheal Friendship would appear clearly to cut through the carbonaceous system, inasmuch as its walls are composed of black carbonaceous slate; and thin seams of anthracite, not thicker than a shilling, are found among the harder and more arenaceous beds through which it passes. The lead and silver mine of Wheal Botay is certainly in the carbonaceous system, as is also the tin lode of Wheal Jewel." I remember, I believe, to have read in the same work that there was lime in the lode, but cannot find the statement for the moment. I did not, I believe, reason that Wheal Friendship was in the series contended for, because of the lime at

The West Rosewarne United Mines, would, I am morally convinced, be received with attention and respect, the persons, fortunately practical and scientific men, to whom been entrusted.

ONE OF YOUR CONSTANT READERS.

Brook-street, G. & C. Square, April 5.

NATIONAL BRAZILIAN—COCAES.

Sir.—The old shareholders have frequently seen with satisfaction the occasional attention that has been attracted to this extensive property; and the recent letter of Mr. Hitchins, in your excellent Journal, together with improvements in other South American companies, have again brought it into notice. Would not this be a happy time for placing the concern upon a proper and secure basis? If the opportunity be unimproved, the probability is that a few weeks will see the shares at their old figure—about 12. each. The reports from the mines have now ceased—the recent movement, as these are barren as ever.

So far as I have been able to ascertain, after long and patient attention, the following appears, as nearly as possible, the present condition of the property:—First, the present limited workings leave an accumulating balance against the adventurers of at least 15,000 £. a year. This has to be met by Mr. Oxenford. Secondly, the estate owes Mr. Oxenford at least 30,000 £.; and I have reason to believe that, if this gentleman, whom I never saw, could meet with a purchaser at a much less figure than the above, he would gladly sell the entire estate, to pay off existing liabilities; for though, intrinsically, the property may be very valuable, as now worked it is worse than worthless. As to Mr. Oxenford rendering an account, there is a copious pamphlet to be had at the office, in which a certified balance-sheet is given; and I fear there can be no just doubt as to the deep indebtedness of the concern.

Now, as it appears to me, the only way of rescuing these fine estates from utter ruin is for the shareholders to ascertain and discharge the existing liabilities of the property, placing it under sound and vigorous management, and to raise a working capital of from 10,000 £. to 20,000 £., which would be absolutely essential to the proper development of the mines. As there are scarcely 9000 recognisable shares, it would be necessary that a call or contribution of 5 £. per share should be furnished. Less than this would be futile, and leave the estates still mortgaged. This being done, reasonable expectation of good profits might be entertained; but otherwise, I can see no hope. It seems unreasonable that a 30 £. paid-up share should be worth only 2 £. in the market; but if the money has been spent, and the estate is in pawn, the matter is explained.

Let not the shareholders flatter themselves that relief is to be obtained without a contribution of 5 £. per share. So far as I know, Mr. Oxenford is but too anxious to relinquish the property, and render an account, when any parties present themselves to receive such account, and discharge his just claims, as any other person would be who has lent more money upon an estate than its market value.

I repeat that I have no personal knowledge of Mr. Oxenford, and my only object in this communication is to prevent the indulgence of delusive hopes, and to stir up the shareholders to join in a vigorous effort to rescue from irretrievable alienation a property which otherwise may soon be totally lost to them. I am of opinion that my statements cannot be disproved, and that they are not exaggerated.

A. OLD SHAREHOLDER, AND YOUR CONSTANT READER.

THE AVE MARIA GOLD MINING COMPANY.

Sir.—The vagaries of the respectable directors of this company have been deservedly animadverted upon by many gentlemen in your Journal. These have told us how the directors have paid themselves, and the revelations of the Court of Bankruptcy proved the truthfulness of the assertion. I also have told your readers, and the shareholders in particular, through the same channel, that these directors have, at the same time, left the poor men and their dependent families to starve. My best, though feeble, efforts to obtain some redress for those wantonly impoverished people have been nobly supported by the humane single-mindedness of Mr. Guedalia. Thus I have been so far the mouthpiece of the men, but would now beg you to permit them to speak for themselves, in a letter, one of many, which I have received from them. The facts are but simply told, yet they are heartrending facts, that require no scholastic embellishment.

The committee of investigation appears to me but an empty name at best. For what possible value can be attached to the counterfoil of a check-book, to which their investigation, as I understand it, has been limited, than to check the bank account? It cannot sufficiently inform the committee for what purpose such money was paid, and consequently can be no evidence of the honesty of the men who used those checks. Possibly some of these checks were issued in payment for the engines and the machinery; where is such machinery now? The value of that machinery, which was never erected, would pay the poor men their due, and relieve many a shareholder of conscientious misgivings on this subject.

Again, they are said to have paid Mr. O'Conor some 4000 £. for an interest in the New York gold quartz vein; what is to become of such interest? I will not go into the details of these matters. The committee may, bye and bye, tell us some of these things, and give a summary of the assets. I will now let the men tell a truth or two, by your kind permission; and would beg leave most respectfully and most earnestly to solicit for the following the attentive perusal of the shareholders, and of those gentlemen who form the committee of investigation in particular.

Totnes, Devon, April 2.

W. EATHORNE GILL.

Mr. GILL.—Sir: The post has just brought me your letter: I thank you for your promptitude, and now send you an answer, as you desired, by return of post. I am sorry you find the Ave Maria at so low an ebb—a company for which we risked our lives. I did think there would be honest men enough left, though one man has died and two or three become bankrupt, to pay us our just due. It is a mere trifling to a company, but a serious loss to a poor man. They appear to be evading our claims in every possible way. They have now been due over two years, and no nearer being settled than when we first made our demand. Mr. Halford promised two of our men, who saw him last summer in San Francisco, that he was coming to England, and would do all in his power to see the men paid what was due to them; and he told me the same, the last time I saw him. You can only do what you, no doubt, repeatedly have done—ask them, and perhaps get the old answer, of “not at present.” There are but three of us in England, and I am the only one capable of writing, and that but badly; but I can tell them facts, plain facts, which, if they knew, and had one spark of honour or honesty about them, would make them blush for their fame and name. Had they ever either? I fear not. Their conduct will not justify any one coming to such a conclusion. I can only reiterate what I said in my last, relative to the families of the men. One of their wives, who lives very near me, has a family of nine small children, and is entirely dependent on the kindness of a shopkeeper, who has kindly supplied her with necessities, knowing and trusting that the Ave Maria Company can and will eventually pay her husband the money they owe him, when he knows he would be sure to be repaid. He told me himself, that had he not supplied them they must have applied to the parish, or, perhaps, gone into the Union; and that with a company of gentlemen, whom he served faithfully, owing her husband between one and two hundred pounds for the last two years! This is not a solitary case, but unfortunately one among many. I do not wish to be personal, and give names, but would do so if required. I think you said you showed my letter to a gentleman named Guedalia. I have seen his letters in the Journal in our behalf, and beg to thank him for his kindness, and hope he will not let the matter drop, as publicly, perhaps, will do more good than anything else. Apologising for so long a letter, I remain yours, respectively,

JAMES M. RUNDLE.

St. Austell, March 28.

AGUA FRIA GOLD MINING COMPANY.

Sir.—I enclose a copy of a communication received from a shareholder in this company, who has visited our mine at Gold Hill, in the belief that you can find space to insert it in your valuable Journal, it will prove as interesting, not only to our proprietors but to the mining community generally, as it has been gratifying to the directors. I need scarcely add that, although the directors have been, and are, most anxious to accelerate operations in California, they had no intention at the meeting of expressing any censure whatever on Mr. Attwood, in whom they have the utmost confidence.—London, April 4.

W. J. VIAN, Sec.

TO THE DIRECTORS OF THE AGUA FRIA COMPANY.

GENTLEMEN.—A question having been put to me, yesterday, by one of your honourable body, which I found it difficult to answer without some little consideration, I assure myself that you will not consider it intrusive that I reply to it somewhat more in detail. The query was concerning the company's works at Gold Hill. Not being either a civil or mining engineer by profession, I approach the matter with some diffidence; however, circumstances put me in the way of remarking, and I am not altogether unacquainted with the theory and practice of mining, and I have visited many of the various mines opened, or tried to be opened, in Grass Valley.

My acquaintance with Mr. Attwood was entirely casual, and did not amount to intimacy, so that no undue partiality can dictate when I state that, according to my humble judgment, a better, more competent, and more careful agent than that gentleman could not have been appointed. I have always held, and frequently expressed, this opinion, which is strengthened by that of many of his own profession, who are better able to judge than I. As I fear certain remarks may have been in danger of being misunderstood, yesterday, by some of the proprietors, and perhaps may be construed into misgivings, leading them to imagine that Mr. Attwood has been spending money out of all reason, and as such notions are not apt to improve by keeping (as others similarly situated as Mr. Attwood may be, have sometimes found to their cost), I submit to you that the object of ultimately saving expense in repairs was hardly sufficiently considered in the statement of causes of outlay; and I respectfully add that the utter ruin of the mine would have been hazarded by ill-considered plans and hasty constructions. Interruptions arising from the most trivial defect through haste are apt to cause delays ill compensated for by any saving of either time, money, or trouble. Mr. Attwood thought it would not be judicious to make a call at present; but as they had their agent set as one of your honorable board suggested, thinking that a rougher worker might have done the same work to greater advantage, his haste must have inevitably impeded his progress. There are plenty of such rough workers in California, but one might (with deference) as soon expect a square-headed mathematician to construct an Iliad as such men to be able properly, and without coming to grief, to conduct extensive mining operations underground, or to establish the necessary works above ground. Mr. Attwood is absent, and professional capabilities are tender points in men who probably depend upon them for a livelihood; and I am sure that your honourable board will unanimously agree with me that unlimited and unquestioned confidence should be reposed in your agent.

I hope that few or none of our shareholders will require such an argument; however, it is as well to offer it—viz., that in case any one should distract Mr. Attwood's capabilities, it will do himself no good to express it. It is not entirely irrelevant to this subject to state that many, if not all, of the mine agents were placed in a very false position (Mr. Attwood, for ought I know to the contrary, as well as others). Meetings were convened, companies formed, and amount of capital advertised, and the agents landed in the regions of hickory hams and wooden nutmegs, with directions to lose no time, and having 60,000 £., 50,000 £., or 100,000 £. planned, as it were, on their backs; and (to use a Californian phrase) “before they'd time to skin their eyes,” many of them found themselves possessed of no end of good road-making stuff, at any rate proportioned to their known means. Our agent did not get into this fix, at any rate, for he took care to get good mineral; and the selection of his mines reflects equal credit on his discrimination and on that of the directors who appointed as agent a man as entirely qualified in every department of his business.

R. BLIGH SINCLARE, late Captain H.M.S.

GAS.—Mr. A. B. Berard, C.E., of Paris, in describing his patent for the manufacture of gas, coke, and other products from coal, and in apparatus for that purpose, says—“If the coal be surrounded on all sides by the heat, the gases will be driven towards the centre of the mass; in accordance with this principle, I have succeeded in advantageously collecting the volatile and gaseous products from a considerable mass of coal, by establishing the outlet for the gas in the centre of the mass.” The distillation is conducted by the inventor in closed vessels, inaccessible to air.

Meetings of Mining Companies.

BRUCUTU GOLD MINING COMPANY.

A meeting of shareholders was held on Saturday at the offices of the company, 31, Lime-street, City. Mr. TULLY in the chair.

The notice convening the meeting having been read, the chairman expressed his deep regret at the absence of their esteemed and valued friend, Mr. Duval, who had been compelled, in consequence of severe illness, to retire from the direction, and he hoped—for he knew the anxiety of Mr. Duval for the success of the undertaking—that the vacancy would not be filled up until they knew for certain that his health would not permit him to resume office.

The minutes of the last meeting were then read and confirmed, and the following statement of accounts for 12 months ending 31st March, was presented and passed:

1854. Mar. 30. Cash at bankers	£130 4 2
Petty cash	5 17 3 = £436 1 3
April 6. Cash for 250 shares per C. V. Ivalai, Esq.	31 5 0
June 15. Loan from four directors	110 0 0
July 22. Produce of 17 ozs. 5 dols. 49 grs. gold sold in Brazil	63 8 5
and remitted by agents	
Balance of accounts remitted by agents	54 7 6
Furniture sold on removal of offices	12 9 4
Total	£107 11 3

Expenditure since March 30, 1854.

Balance of expenditure at Brazil, trial of mine, voyages	£471 4 7
Salaries in London (one year)	94 5 0
Directors' expenses to 31st May, 1854 (since discontinued)	26 5 0
Office expenses	18 9 7
Rent of office (five quarters)	36 5 0
Printing reports for distribution, advertisements, news-papers, stationery, &c.	29 7 7 = £675 16 9

Leaving balance in hand. £ 31 14 11

The CHAIRMAN then referred to Captain Wm. Treloar's report after his trial of the mine, and which he observed confirmed the previous reports and testimony of Mr. Halford, a German mining engineer of high standing and great experience in Brazil. Capt. Joel Hitchins, Venan. John Hitchins, and Thos. Treloar of the St. John del Rey Company. Capt. Wm. Treloar had previous knowledge of the property, from his having resided at Coates, and after he had pursued the report of the gentlemen previously alluded to, he had made his own examination, taken his own measurements, and prepared his own plans and sections. The conclusion which he had come to were, in his own words, “not only unbiased, but formed as if he had never seen the opinion of others.”

The following is an abstract of Capt. Wm. Treloar's report, which is an elaborate production, and evidences a scientific and diligent investigation:—

“ESTIVA, OR GONGO FORMATION.—Whether the name of this formation was derived from any similarity it bears to that of Gongo I know not, but I find it is more frequently known by the name of Gongo or the Estiva formation. It is next in order to Brucutu; it is at the north of it 75 ms., and the separating rock is ferruginous sandstone; its thickness varies from 2100 to 102 ft., as near as I have been able to ascertain it, widening westward, and converging to the point eastward. Its underlie is about 46° south, but this I have not been able to arrive at with any degree of accuracy. On it there is one talho aberto of about 160 fms. long, but it may be said to have been only skinned along the surface. How many gold-bearing lines are comprised in it I have not been able to discover, for the talho aberto is a ruin, but I am informed that it contains ore, and that near the western end one of the shoots on it has been mixed below the bottom of the talho aberto. Near the eastern end an old Brazilian, well acquainted with the locality and the ancient miners who worked here, states that another very rich shoot was worked down to the water, and that the operation ceased for want of means of getting it out. Believe this, because the position of the shoot is near the point of convergence, and because the formation presents all the characteristics of containing good deposits of gold—many of my samples produced most encouraging proofs of this.

“COCAES FORMATION.—The position of this formation is about 280 fms. to the north of the Estiva or Gongo, and its outcrop is a much greater elevation than either of the other beds. It is a large body, but its thickness, though evidently variable from the indications at the surface, has not been correctly ascertained. Nothing is known as to what number of gold-bearing lines it contains, and it is entire throughout the length and breadth of the Brucutu estate. The outcrop of it is just below the water-line of the mountain. A great many openings have been made into it, and in some of them I found solid evidences to prove there were tempting, if not actually good shoots. An old feitor of the Cocaes company states that he worked on this shoot, and it was rich. This is unmistakably a continuation of that of Coates, and if it be remarked that the result obtained from it by the National Brazilian Mining Association on their estate offers no encouragement, I answer that there is a wide difference between this formation at Brucutu and at Coates. There the Coates Company purchased the property upon the fame it had acquired by the quantities of gold already extracted—and once extracted it could not be found again; whereas here this formation is in a virgin state. Such, however, I am inclined would not have been the case had it been covered by a stratum of water. The ride method of the Brazilian system would then have been applied to the examination of it; but an examination by systematic mining, and by which the jacutinga formation must be explored, is beyond their knowledge. The formation runs through the estate; it offers great facilities for exploring it, and timber is close at hand. The heavy rains, common to this country, however, in the course of ages, scoop out numerous ravines, which, as well as the valleys below, have been washed for gold. This is a true indication of the surer character of the formations, and it is this that the miners have conducted to nearly all the mines in this country. The forests are sufficiently extensive for the requirements of the mine for many years, and a great deal of timber is of the best quality. The pastures are excellent, excepting near the top of the mountain, is carpeted with grass, well suited for feeding and raising of cattle. I believe there will be little if any difficulty in hiring blocks to work this line. The period allowed me for the examination of such an extensive mining property has not been so ample as I could have wished; still I have crossed-cut, dug, and sampled so much, so carefully examined the valleys and ravines, made plans and sections for bringing the estate before me, and obtained much information that I feel, notwithstanding, I have handled as it were the formations tangibly, and that I am, consequently, in possession of a good deal of solid knowledge relative to them. I have mentioned that the jacutinga formation may be said to be disposed in beds, some of them having a much greater longitudinal extent than others, but widening westward, and converging to almost a point eastward, presenting a figure analogous in some measure to a chain of wedges. This geological fact is a very desirable feature, for the great deposits of gold have been found near the points of convergence. In the Brucutu and Estiva formations this feature, with shoots near it, is open to any one who may examine the localities. Seeing that the property possesses many favourable features; seeing in the extent opened on the Brucutu formation two rich groups of shoots of gold have been found, which are entirely below water level here; seeing that the Coates formation is in a virgin state throughout the Brucutu property, having one known shoot of gold dipping into it from the property adjoin; seeing in the valley and ravines above the formations have afforded rich washings; and seeing, moreover, the great advantages for draining and working the formations, I cannot but be of opinion that the estate presents mining properties of a common order, and that it is such as is well worthy the attention of any respectable mining company. It is my firm belief that operations be commenced under the management of a sound, steady, practical engineer, and proper economy be observed, very gratifying results will be the consequence.

The CHAIRMAN observed that it now only remained for him to say that, after well

considering the reports of the various authorities who had inspected the property, the directors had no doubt whatever as to the desirability of proceeding with the development of it. This was the opinion also of Mr. Duval, who was well acquainted with the locality, and whose knowledge of mining was of the greatest value. It remained, however, for the shareholders to assist in carrying out the promising results which the undertaking clearly presented. At the present time their position was one of no ordinary difficulty, owing to the state of the money market; but he hoped, as there now appeared to be some prospect of peace, that mining investment, as well as other commercial enterprises, would soon take a turn, and that there was reasonable hope of success. The directors begged to say that they were ready, as the servants of the proprietor, to adopt any course which they might be disposed to recommend. If they thought a call should be made, the directors were prepared to make it, but, if on the other hand, they were of opinion that it would be more advisable to defer making a call for the present, the directors were prepared to comply with that suggestion. He was happy to inform the meeting that they had had an extension of their contract granted for four months, and which would terminate in July next; in the interim there would be, he hoped, a disposition on the part of the shareholders to avail themselves of the advantages which this property certainly held out. But what the directors wished, was the co-operation of a committee of three or four shareholders to consult and confer with the board, as to what would be the most desirable course to pursue, so that some definite plan might be fixed upon by which the undertaking might be successfully carried out.

Mr. HAWKINS thought it would not be judicious to make a call at present; but as they had been so fortunate as to obtain an extension of their contract, he thought the directors, with the assistance of a well-organized committee, might come to some eligible arrangement.

The CHAIRMAN assured the meeting that the directors were most desirous to have

the assistance of a committee, for they were satisfied that it would not only strengthen

their views, but facilitate business; and he should be most happy to propose Mr. Hawkins as one of the committee.

Mr. HAWKINS said he was afraid he should not be able to economise his time, so as to give the subject the attention it required; but after being pressed by the chairman and several shareholders, he consented to

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editor of the company be instructed to oppose such petitions, and that if an order is made, to apply to discharge the same.' That Mr. Anthony William Clarke was in the chair at this meeting, and afterwards, at a meeting of the committee of management, agreed to the payment of Mr. Tucker's costs of £50, on the withdrawal of his petition for winding-up the company in the Court of Chancery. Because this meeting considers that it is inconsistent with the character of a man of business, that Mr. Anthony William Clarke having been elected by the adventurers of this mine to wind-up its affairs, should have drawn out from the funds of the company a sum of 50 guineas, as a remuneration for his services, without the consent of the shareholders, who alone could appreciate such services, or make such a grant; and that, having been obliged to refund this sum, so unjustifiably appropriated to himself, and having been removed from the committee of management, he should have given notice to the bankers of the company not to honour the cheques of the new committee of management, and subsequently should have filed the said bill in the Court of Chancery, to the annoyance of the shareholders, he having taken care to receive the 50s. per share on the shares held by him before such bill was filed, whereby other shareholders, who had not received the 50s., are stopped from receiving the same, and the committee is prevented from speedily and peaceably winding-up the affairs of the company, without an appeal to the Court of Chancery, which threatens vexatious expense and delay."

"That, under all the circumstances, the committee take the necessary steps to stay the suit in Chancery instituted by Mr. Anthony William Clarke, in order to save the funds of this adventure being wasted in unnecessary costs of Chancery proceedings."

Mr. JOHN HUGH JONES seconded the resolution.

Mr. CLARKE said it was quite clear that a personal attack was made upon him, and he would, therefore, trouble them with one or two remarks. When he occupied the chair, he distinctly stated that they would pay 6s. per share, and a sum would be left to investigate the affairs, by which means a much larger return would be obtained. He also stated that the committee were willing to refer the matter to two gentlemen, and abide by their decision, and forego any legal proceedings. He (Mr. Clarke) felt it his duty to adopt the course he had done, and which would enable the shareholders to receive 10s. or 12s. more per share, as, with the exception of Lake Bathurst, there were no such defalcations as those in the Australian Freehold; but the accounts had been so ably and clearly kept by Mr. Pulsford, the secretary, that he would have very little difficulty in proving his case. With regard to those unfortunate shareholders who had not received the 50s., he warned them at the meeting to lose no time; unfortunately several had neglected to do so, and were now too late, although the inconvenience was only temporary, as they would not only be paid the 50s., but a much larger sum, and no honest man could agree to wind-up the company without investigation. One of the directors, after taking 4000s. out of the funds of the company, being allowed to retain his seat at the board.

Mr. FREDERICK JONES said, Mr. Clarke proposed to return to them, through the medium of the Court of Chancery, 15s. out of 30s. Now, any one who considered the subject would not believe such a statement. Mr. Clarke complained that the resolution was personal, but they could not act otherwise—Mr. Clarke was a whole corporation. The Chancery notice served was in the name of Mr. Clarke, on behalf of himself and all other shareholders in the Australian Freehold Gold Mining Company. He (Mr. Jones) had gone entirely through the accounts, and he believed, if all the differences could be obtained it would not be more than 700s., and to contend for it in the Court of Chancery would cost three times that amount.

Mr. GROXON said, when they were called together, and agreed to take the 50s. per share, he considered the shareholders were binding themselves to the winding-up of the concern; and although a large shareholder, holding upwards of 500 shares, when he received that amount, it left upon his mind the impression that he was taking it to avoid all law proceedings. (Hear.) At the meeting, it was suggested that Mr. Tucker should withdraw a suit that was considered friendly, but surely it was never supposed that that would be withdrawn, and a hostile one commenced. He belonged to several companies, started under higher auspices, that had not paid one shilling in the pound. He hoped they would agree to the resolution, which would be the best answer they could take to the Court of Chancery, that it was the unanimous wish of the company that the suit should not be proceeded with further. (Cheers.)

Mr. CLARKE asked Mr. Spalding whether, when his bill was taken off the file by Mr. Tucker, it was done with his consent; and whether, by the withdrawal of the bill, he considered the directors were to be let off?

Mr. SPALDING said the bill was withdrawn without his consent or knowledge, and that they had no business to do so.

The CHAIRMAN said it would be of advantage to the shareholders to get as much back as possible, but if they carried on the proceedings in Chancery there was little doubt they would last much longer than he should; and, perhaps, he might be wanting in affection for his great grandchildren, preferring receiving the money himself.

Mr. TARAZZI said it might appear invidious to name an individual, but the object of the shareholders was to convey to the Court of Chancery their sentiments and opinion of Mr. Clarke's conduct. The main benefit to be derived from the present meeting was to let the Lord Chancellor know the feelings of the shareholders. Mr. Clarke says, why not mention other parties? Would he have Mr. Harding mentioned, who was employed by them as an accountant, and writes a letter to the *Miners' Journal*, of the meeting, remained in the court office until they were turned out, purchasing the 15s. per share, and by that means obtained 700s?

Mr. HUGH JONES wished to ask Mr. Raymond whether Messrs. Harding and Tucker, at a committee meeting, did not propose to him to commence certain proceedings, for the purpose of putting a large amount of money in their own pockets?

Mr. RAYMOND replied that such a proposition was made to him, but not at a committee meeting.

The resolution was then put and carried, with one dissentient (Mr. Clarke):

The number of registered shares, the holders voting in their own right, were 15,895; Mr. A. W. Clarke, 395—majority for the resolution, 13,300.

Votes of thanks to the chairman and committee of management terminated the proceedings.

RED DRAGON MINING COMPANY.

A meeting of shareholders was held at the offices of the company, King-street, Cheapside, on Wednesday, Mr. P. SANS in the chair.

The SECRETARY read the notice convening the meeting, and the minutes of the last, which were confirmed. A statement of accounts was exhibited, which showed—

Mine costs, merchants' bills, rent, &c.	£245 0 0
Balance at bankers	2 12 6
Balance from last account	£ 65 3 4
Capital account	129 15 0
Balance due to purser	£ 52 14 2

Mr. ANDREWS then read the following report:—

In accordance with the instructions of your chairman, J. Sunley, Esq., Mr. C. Martin proceeded to Dinas Mowddwy on the 24th of September last, to superintend a commercial operation on 50 tons of gossan. He first thoroughly examined the machinery, and being satisfied that it was in working order, on the 26th of September he commenced operations. The gossan was weighed off under the superintendence of Captain Bray; who, also with one of our men who had been engaged in the erection of the machinery, weighed off and put into the machine between 1300 lbs. and 1400 lbs. of mercury, that had sent down for the experiment; however, on its completion, when we looking for the means of arriving at a satisfactory result, and which, from the admirable working of the machine itself, we had every reason to expect, it was discovered that from the peculiar qualities of the gossan a large quantity of the mercury had been carried off, thus rendering the experiment futile, as was explained to you at your meeting on the 14th of November last. The experience gained from this experiment, and the confidence we felt, both in the principle of the machine and the auriferous qualities of your gossan, induced us at that meeting to guarantee you against more than a commercial loss of mercury, if you would provide sufficient for another experiment, so fully were we convinced of the result; to this proposal you acceded. The magnitude of the interests involved, and the commercial importance of the trial, if successful, were such as to demand the result that has been attained. In January last, Mr. C. Martin again went down to prosecute the second experiment upon 24 tons, and to make the alterations necessitated by a fresh weighing of the gossan; these alterations he completed, but, after spending some time at the mine, the severity of the weather compelled him to suspend his operations; which were, however, resumed after a delay of three weeks. As in the former experiment, the gossan and mercury were weighed off under the superintendence of Capt. Bray, 1445 pounds of mercury being put into the machine. On completing the amalgamation, the mercury was drawn off and placed in the tray of the retort, which had been previously used for minor experiments, and was found to work admirably. The evaporation was then continued without intermission until the whole had been distilled; the mercury was then reweighed in the presence, and with the assistance, of Capt. Bray, when we found the result 1360 lbs., and, consequently, that it had sustained a gross loss of 6 per cent. The residuum, consisting of gold dust and debris, left in the distilling tray, was then collected, enclosed in paper, and sealed by Capt. Bray, and delivered so sealed by Mr. Martin to Messrs. Johnson and Mathew; the ingot of pure gold now presented, weighing 99 ounces 9 grains, is the commercial result, being equal to 8 dwt. per ton of gossan.

The arrangements that had been made were, as a matter of necessity, only temporary in their character. Perke's machine, for the purposes of crushing and triturating, is as complete as can be desired; but, as an amalgamator, it is not perfect, and we have little doubt that that part of the process must be conducted by a totally different arrangement. To meet this deficiency, we have, as the result of experiment, designed and patented an apparatus, simple and efficient in construction, which will involve no loss of mercury, while its operations can be conducted with about 1-10th part of that used in the present experiment; and being small and compact, it can, by its peculiar construction, be erected in the laboratory under the charge of a responsible person, thus securing a great desideratum. In order to satisfy ourselves of the auriferous character of the gossan, and of the possible results under a perfect system, and with the advantages which improved scientific knowledge may secure, we made a very careful commercial experiment as follows:—including every contingency, the cost will not exceed 50s. per ton, and that a realisation of 10 dwt. only will leave a clear profit of 100 per cent.; while, from the inexhaustible supply of auriferous gossan which you possess, we believe you have one of the most valuable mining sets in this kingdom, only requiring judicious management, and a well-arranged plant, to be highly remunerative as a commercial investment.—BARRATT; EXALL; ANDREWS: Kettle-grove Iron-Works, Reading, April 3.

A SHAREHOLDER wished to know how many of the 4000 original shares were taken and paid upon?

Mr. SMITH replied that the whole were taken up, with the exception of the 135, which it was proposed to forfeit.

Mr. STEPHENSON wished to know whether any gentleman was in attendance from Messrs. Barratt, Exall, and Andrews, who could give any further information?

The CHAIRMAN said Mr. Andrews was present, as also Mr. Martin, who had assisted in superintending the operations.

Mr. ANDREWS did not think he could add anything to the report, but would guarantee the perfect integrity of the experiment; and as the head of a large manufacturing concern, he would stake his character upon it. (Cheers.) The great discrepancy in the yield clearly showed that there was a large margin left for improved machinery, by which he was satisfied the yield would be considerably increased. Mr.

Martin might be able to give the shareholders any information they might desire better than himself.

Mr. MARTIN said he could not add to the report, which was a plain statement of facts. Everything had been done with the greatest care, and as strictly as possible: 1445 lbs. of quicksilver had been distilled to obtain the piece of gold on the table, and the action of the retort was admirable. The operations were conducted fairly and openly, but rather than make any remarks he should be happy to answer any questions that might be put to him by shareholders. Mr. Martin, in answer to questions by several shareholders, said the operations were conducted at the mine; he saw the gossan dug out, and was of opinion there was no possibility of any party putting gold into the machinery or quicksilver. His full conviction was that a far greater result would be obtained in the future working of the mine. What had been hitherto done was the minimum and not the maximum return, and yet it showed to be a good commercial undertaking.

Mr. CROSLAND said he saw the gossan put into the machine, and after hearing the report by Messrs. Barratt, Exall, and Co., who, for respectability, stood second to none in the kingdom, the shareholders must place the greatest confidence in what they had heard. He (Mr. Crosland), upon visiting the mines, felt satisfied that every shilling had been expended there, and whether the adventure turned out good or bad, the shareholders were dealing with honest men, and that their proceedings throughout had been straightforward.

The report was then unanimously received, adopted, and directed to be entered on the minutes.

Mr. DOLAND next moved that a committee of four be appointed, to consider what steps should be taken for carrying on the mine, and to report to an adjourned meeting, to be held on Friday, the 13th April next.

After a lengthened discussion, Messrs. Crosland, Hemmings, Stephenson, and Fenton were appointed the committee; and the proceedings terminated with a vote of thanks to the chairman.

PENCORSE CONSOLS MINING COMPANY.

The eighth general meeting of shareholders was held at the office of the company, 19, Guildford-street, Leeds, on the 30th March.

Mr. JOHN MARSHALL in the chair.

After the usual preliminaries, the following report of the committee was read:— Since the last meeting, on December 22, considerable progress has been made in developing the mine and returning the ore, notwithstanding the late severe weather, which greatly retarded surface operations on the mines.

With respect to the sales of ore, the results are certainly most satisfactory and encouraging. The first sale of copper, which came from the adit and shallow levels, realised but 10s. per ton, the best quality, 5s. 6d. per ton; the late sale of 11 tons, from the greater depth, produced 13s. 8s. 6d. per ton. The first sale of lead was at 9s. 9d. per ton; the late sale fetched 13s. 1s. 6d. per ton, notwithstanding the late decline in price. For the same ore we obtain the same price as before, and now find no difficulty in its sale, the quality being approved of by the smelters, as appears by their letters—a cargo being now in order.

The quantity sold since December amounts to 414s. 11s. 3d., for which bills have been received, and a cargo of upwards of 150 tons now in course of shipment (say), 23s., making a total for zinc of 639s. 11s. 3d. Lead paid for in cash, 28s. 1s. 4d. Copper sold, but not yet paid for, 13s. 1s. 6d. The gross sum of ore actually sold since December is, therefore, 805s. 2s. 1d.

The report of the captain states, in one month he will be able to send off another cargo of 100 tons of zinc. These facts, your committee think, must be received as satisfactory.

Your committee have at length secured the parcel of ground lying between the western part of your works and Mr. Eney's land, of which the grant had already been obtained. They have already paid 50s. on account of 1000 ft. for entering (it will be re-collected Mr. Retallack demanded 2000 ft.), and are put into possession. The captain reports the value of the ore in the end at present 3 tons per fathom of jack and copper, or 6s. 15s., at the lowest price; this can be worked at 11s. or 12s. per ton. If we average the cost of dressing by that dressed since Christmas, it will be found as nearly as possible 5s. per ton. Our dressing party costs about 15s. per month, and dress about 100 tons of zinc, besides copper and lead, which allow as extra. The carriage to port and quay dues, costs 5s. per ton, so that ore, from Retallack's land, will probably cost on board ship about 15s. or 16s. per ton. As soon as the ground is laid open for stopping, the quantity may be greatly extended, without further cost, as the levels are driven and no shaft yet required.

It will be seen from Capt. Dale's report that the stopes in the eastern ground are yielding ore as usual; a little improvement and diminution has taken place in the others, as will always necessarily occur. In the 35 ft. ends have not yet been driven so far as the point at which we expect to meet with the ore gone down in the upper levels, though they have already cut a little jack and floor—both evidences of a good kind. However, ere long they will be under the bunches gone down, when your committee hope the expectations of all will be realised.

A report from Capts. John Dale and John Edwards was read, and a detailed statement of accounts was submitted, showing that after the whole of the merchants' and other bills had been paid, an available balance of 532s. 1s. 3d. was in hand.

The CHAIRMAN stated he felt great pleasure in calling the attention of the proprietors to the gratifying report just read, from which it would be seen the sales of ore were not only rapidly increasing, but the quality of the ore was steadily improving, as the levels increased in depth. The mine is now giving sterling proofs of what might be expected, and although their hopes were somewhat delayed, yet he felt perfectly convinced they were progressing satisfactorily, and that ere long they would be realised; but all mining matters were works of time, and required more than ordinary patience for their development. If he might be allowed to judge of this by other specimens in which he had been concerned, he must admit it presented a striking and favourable contrast. He believed few mines had in their first year sold as much as 15000s. worth of ore, and few at such depths returned a better price than 12s. 6s. 6d. per ton. Under such circumstances, he really congratulated them on the present position and appearances of their property.

A SHAREHOLDER said he had been on the mine two or three times, and he could assure them their engine, plant, and all the surface operations, were of the most substantial kind, as proved by the engine (30-in.) and machinery not requiring a shaft for repairs since their erection. He had himself, at the outset, gone underground, and examined the lode in the adit level, when he saw the lode was rich in zinc. They had now profited the lode increased in value in depth; the mine is in a point of geological situation, all that could be desired; and the opinion of all the eminent captains who had inspected the mine was, it had the elements of a good concern, and the reports of sales was a good proof of the correctness of that opinion. He had no doubt whatever that Pencorse would, by and bye, be a most valuable property, and amply repay them for their outlay. He felt quite assured not a shilling had been squandered or laid out carelessly, but the most judicious economy had been exercised in every department, and he had every confidence in the agents and officers of the mine.

The report, statements, and account, were received as highly satisfactory, and the committee desired to take such steps as they deemed necessary to enforce immediate payment of unpaid calls.

A call of 2s. per share was made; and it was decided that, in future, in the notices of calls it be specified, that if not paid within 14 days the committee will be compelled to enforce payment, the delay in the payment of the late calls having led to serious inconvenience.

The salary of the secretary was fixed at 45s. per annum, to be advanced to 60s. as soon as the mine becomes dividend-paying.

The utmost cordiality pervaded the meeting, and every shareholder present expressed his perfect satisfaction at the proceeding and state of the company's works. Thanks were voted to the chairman, "for his conduct in the chair and his devotion to the interests of the company generally," and to the secretary, "for his attention to the shareholders, and the information he at all times readily affords respecting this mine."

GREAT CAMBRIAN MINING AND QUARRYING COMPANY.

A meeting of shareholders was held at the offices of the company, Threadneedle-street, on Tuesday, Mr. WILLIAM E. TUCKE in the chair.

Mr. JENKINS having read the notice convening the meeting,

The CHAIRMAN said their affairs had arrived at a position, that it was necessary to come to the determination either to preserve the property, to bring in more capital to pay off the liabilities, or decide upon winding-up; and it was for the purpose of taking the opinion of the shareholders as to the course to be pursued that the present meeting was convened. In order that every information might be afforded, they had kept Capt. Hogan in town, and he was now in attendance, to give any explanation as to the present and future prospects of the mine. Since the last meeting one circumstance occurred, which threw a new light upon the adventure. At No. 6 shaft, quartz, richly impregnated with gold, had been discovered, and a letter received that morning stated that it was still increasing. He would remind them that the mine was in that part of Merionethshire where geologists were of opinion that gold to some extent existed; it was, therefore, for them to consider whether they would wind-up, or subscribe a sufficient sum to develop what he considered a very valuable property. Capt. Hogan had had the management since December last, but during the winter months the force employed had been small, and the progress made not very great. He (the chairman) would now call upon Capt. Hogan to read the report.

Capt. HOGAN then read a report, which appeared in the *Miners' Journal* of the 24th March last; and, in answer to questions by shareholders, said he had worked at Cwm Darren, Gwynedd, and Llanberis, and the Great Cambrian Mine, in similar strata; but in Merionethshire no mine had yet been properly tried in depth. The appearances at the Great Cambrian were as good as any mine he had seen either in North or South Wales, and, in his opinion, they ought to sink deeper on No. 6 and No. 3 levels. The adit level would come into the shaft at about 25 or 30 fms., and they were now down only 12 fathoms. They had to drive the adit about 70 fms. to reach the shaft.

Mr. GOSWELL wished to know what amount per month would be required to carry on the mine, supposing they employed from 30 to 40 hands?—Capt. HOGAN replied about 100s. per month; but at present they only required from 12 to 16 miners. They had 20 tons of feed ready for market, and 2 tons of copper; they had been raising as nearly to it as possible. We would not, however, lead the shareholders to too sanguine an expectation at present of its attainment; but, doubtless, a much nearer approach can be secured than that obtained in the present experiment.

stop. All the reports intimated that in a very short time they would be in a position to raise large quantities of ore, and be able to have regular monthly sales. The accounts showed how the money had been spent since the last meeting; and he remembered saying that he hoped, if they could not declare dividends, they would have sufficient to pay expenses. It was well known that to carry on a mine successfully, it was necessary to pay ready money for the various articles required; and they would not have been in the present position if certain parties had paid up the call, the arrears amounting to upwards of £600, leaving the few to contribute to keep the mine going. Those parties little thought the injury they were doing; indeed, it was unfair and dishonest to act in such a manner. At the present time, they did not know who the holders of the shares were; it was, therefore, intended to propose a resolution calling them in for reparation, in accordance with the rules of the adventure, fixing an early day for that purpose; and in the event of those shareholders failing to do so, to close the account, and a meeting would then be called to authorise the committee to deal with the defaulters as they might think fit, for the benefit of the remaining shareholders. Since the last meeting, they had found out, by continual investigation, that the management, from the time Mr. Bennett had been connected with it, was too expensive for so small a concern; and notwithstanding frequent representations had been made to him on the subject, it had no effect; the committee, therefore, decided upon making an alteration the beginning of the new year, and Mr. Patterson, who was well acquainted with the mine, had taken it in hand, and since then the account was fully proved the benefit of that appointment, from the remarkable diminution in the charges. The method recently adopted in working the mine was sinking on the incline-shaft, by which they hoped to follow the lode, and obtain sufficient ore to realise a good profit, although it had hitherto been attended with considerable expense in getting the water out, which had been only recently accomplished. He (the chairman) placed great confidence in the report of Capt. Jenkins, whose experience had been gained in good mining districts. The amount estimated for the next six months was £1977. 8d., and a call of 4s. would give £2000.; and if the shareholders in arrear would come in, it would relieve the adventurers from all further call. He believed he had touched upon all the subjects of importance, and would now be happy to hear any observations, or answer any questions put by the shareholders present.

A SHAREHOLDER wished to know when the stamps would be erected?

The CHAIRMAN replied, that they did not intend erecting them until July next. Mr. THORNHILL thought it desirable that the stamps should be erected at once, to crush the 60 tons at surface, by which means the value of the ore might be ascertained by the adjourned meeting, and have the effect of inducing the parties in arrear to pay their calls.

The CHAIRMAN said, some mines would obtain a little ore, sell it, and afterwards stop for a considerable period, which he thought a very objectionable mode of proceeding; but he would pledge himself that the stamps should be erected and the lead to market before the next half-yearly meeting, and afterwards they hoped to have regular monthly sales.—Several shareholders having expressed a wish that, if possible, the value of the ore should be ascertained before the adjourned meeting, the (chairman) said the committee would take it into consideration, as no one could be more anxious than themselves, from the large stake they held in the adventure.—The following resolutions were then unanimously passed:—

"That the reports of Capt. Jenkins and of Mr. Patterson be received, and that the accounts now read be adopted."—"That a call of 4s. per share be made on all the shares of the company (£14). and that the same be payable to the purser in 14 days from the 5th instant."—"That in order to give full effect to article No. 3 of the rules and regulations of this company, whereby it is provided, 'That no person shall be recognised as a shareholder in this company, or in any way interested in the same, until he or she shall have been duly registered as a shareholder in the cost-book of the association,' the purser do give immediate notice, by advertisement, that all persons shall be deemed to have relinquished their claim as a shareholder who shall not duly register his or her shares in the cost-book of the association within one month from this date."—"That the following gentlemen, Joseph Cary, Esq., and J. C. Ruding, Esq., be re-elected the committee of management for the ensuing six months, and that Mr. Thomas Lee be appointed purser for the next six months."

Mr. THORNHILL said, they had all witnessed the able and impartial manner in which their excellent chairman performed his duties, and he was sure nothing would be more gratifying to his feelings than to be able to announce that they were in a dividend-paying position, or even paying their expenses; but certainly they must all feel that every exertion was made to bring them into that state; and even the secretary and treasurer devoted his services to the company gratuitously; at the same time, it was impossible that greater attention could be paid to the interest of the general body of shareholders. (Cheers.) He should, therefore, propose the following resolution, which he was sure would be warmly responded to by all present. He concluded by proposing—"That the thanks of the meeting be presented to the chairman and to the committee of management, and to Mr. Thomas Lee, the purser, for their able management of the affairs of the company."

The CHAIRMAN having briefly acknowledged the compliment, the proceedings then terminated.

PROFESSIONAL LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY.

The annual meeting of this company was held at the offices in Cheapside, on Wednesday, the 28th March.—MAJOR HENRY STONE in the chair.

Mr. BENJAMIN MASSEY (the manager) read the following report:—

The directors have much pleasure in meeting the shareholders on this their eighth anniversary, and in submitting to them a report of the transactions of the company for the past year, trusting that it will be considered satisfactory, evidencing, as it does, the substantial position of the institution, and the gradual extension of its business. During the year terminating on the 31st December last the number of policies effected with and issued by the company was 630; and the amount assured under them, £25,329/4, producing an annual revenue of £7548. 12s. 6d., being an excess over the business of the preceding year of £8,800, in the sums assured, and 9341. 17s. 6d., in the amount of annual premiums. So favourable a result the directors scarcely anticipated, since, irrespective of the great and active competition which exists, and the sudden retirement, though indissoluble, of the late manager, Mr. Baylis, the depressing influence of the present war in which this country is unfortunately engaged, has necessarily created more than ordinary obstacles to the progress of life assurance. The increase of the year's business is also the most remarkable, inasmuch as the operations of the loan department have been materially contracted. The directors feel proud to acknowledge the support they have experienced from many offices of high standing and reputation, which have during the past year reciprocated business with them. The claims sustained by the office during the past year have been 16 in number, the amount assured under them being £9800. The directors have caused a clear and concise balance-sheet up to the 31st day of December last, to be prepared and printed, which, as approved and audited, they now present as part of their report. The directors have again the pleasure of recommending a dividend, after the rate of 5 per cent, per annum (free from income tax), on the paid-up capital of the company; and such dividend is hereby declared accordingly. The directors have to state that, as the corporation may be regarded to have passed its novitiate, and to have taken a position amidst established institutions of its class, they have turned their special attention to the practical modification of the charges of management. With this object, engagements, contracts, and appointments, existing in the past year, have either materially modified or wholly discontinued; and the proprietors are assured that no opportunity will be permitted to escape of still further reducing those charges. The directors are happy to report that the establishment of local boards of management, at Melbourne, Adelaide, Sydney, Geelong, and Victoria, by their esteemed colleague, Jacob Montfiores, Esq., has already led to very considerable results; and the prospects of a great and permanent extension of business from that colony are most encouraging. Agencies are also in full operation at the Cape of Good Hope, Bermuda, Nova Scotia, the Canadas, New Brunswick, Toronto, &c. To their highly influential body of agents and medical referees in this country the best thanks of the directors and proprietors are due for the large amount of carefully selected business which they have contributed during the past year. The augmentation of this body, by the appointment of gentlemen of character and influence, in towns where the company is at present unrepresented, is commanding the best consideration of the board. The large and increasing amount of confidence and patronage extended to this institution show that the public appreciate the broad principles of liberality and benevolence set forth in its prospectus. These principles the directors have uniformly advocated and strongly enforced, and they feel assured that, in studying the interests of the public, they have adopted the most effectual means for promoting the interests of the shareholders; and that, under an economical and energetic management, and with the unremitting and active support of their proprietors and the assured, the business of the society will be augmented, and its prosperity secured.

The CHAIRMAN in moving the adoption of the report, said, that the company had passed through all the phases of new institutions, and was now firmly established. It was generally the case with respect to the promoters of such institutions that they each one regarded his own as a gallant barque, manned with hearts of oak, launched on smiling waters, attended by sunny skies and favourable breezes, and bound for golden shores from which it was to return laden to the guanwale with riches. They all entertained the same silly expectations. But what, he would ask, was the real voyage of life? It commenced all *coulour de rose*, but how long did it continue so? They—the promoters of the Professional Life Assurance Company—started their craft with a new rig, totally at variance with all the notions of established authorities. It was no wonder then, that when they got into blue water they found themselves assailed by all the monsters of the deep, kicked and buffeted on all sides, and what was much worse, found their course retarded by an undercut of false friends. With that state of things he would contrast the present position of the company. They had their compasses corrected and adjusted on the principle laid down by Mr. Hazelton, whose happy allusion to the inscription on the signet ring of Abon Hassan, to the effect that no one ever lost himself on a straight road, ought to be engraven on their hearts. With those compasses they had started, and by their use they had been enabled to give to the shareholders, from time to time, the results of their voyage. They had not, in the language of Persian romance, come to harbour laden with diamonds and pearls; but, in the plain prose of the report, they had been able in the course of eight years to put together an income of 30,000/- a year, and to find that the amount of their premiums had increased to the extent of 7000/- or 8000/- in excess of those of the previous year. If they considered that the circumstances attending last year rendered it a time not calculated to promote the interests of the office, they could not but be gratified with the astounding amount of business they had transacted during the last twelve months. There was, however, something more, and that was that the public were beginning not only to appreciate, but to place the highest value on the principles which the directors had laid down for the management of the office. They also found that their former opponents were now become their steady friends, and were extending to them the right hand of fellowship. The result of all this was that they now stood, as an institution, A 1 in the judgment of those best able to form an opinion upon such matters. It would be superfluous to say one word more about their position. If they agreed with him that the amount of their business was now enormous, and was still increasing, he thought that when he asked them to adopt the report, every one in the room would second him.

Mr. FALLOO seconded the motion, and congratulated the shareholders upon both the increase of their business and the diminution of their expenditure. The motion was agreed to, and the report was accordingly adopted.

The retiring directors, Messrs. Mr. Wellington Cooper, James A. Durham, and Andrew Durban, were then re-elected, for which honour the two former expressed their acknowledgements. With regard to the last-named gentleman,

M. BROCKWELLER stated that he was actively engaged in Bath, advancing the interests of the office.

Mr. DRAKE remarked that he considered £1000, too heavy an amount for the office to pay in claims, and hoped that the mortality had not been increased by their Australian business, as he thought they were too liberal to the colonists.

The CHAIRMAN replied that no Australian policy has as yet become a claim. The policies of the company there, were, for the most part, held by those in easy circumstances, and no one interest was allowed to go to the diggings.

Mr. JAMES JONES added that, from a calculation which he had made, he found that the amount paid in claims was only 15s. per cent. on the sum assured.

The CHAIRMAN, after highly complimenting the retiring auditors, Messrs. F. Woolatt and G. Bain, moved their re-election, which was seconded by Mr. W. E. Williams, and agreed to.

A sum of 92. 10s. was next voted as their remuneration; after which the thanks

of the company were awarded to the medical officers and solicitor, who severally expressed their sense of the honour.

On a vote of thanks being moved to the local secretary and agents, Mr. DRAKE expressed his opinion in opposition to the practice of ramifying the direction by the establishment of local boards.

Mr. MASSEY (the secretary) answered that the objection had been anticipated by the directors, inasmuch as they had now abolished several of the local boards.

The motion was then agreed to.

Mr. COARNS, one of the agents, returned thanks, and stated that he had, during the last twelve months, brought 100 policies to the office.

Mr. MASSEY, in replying to a similar compliment paid to himself and the London staff of officers, gave an epitome of the history of the office, and sketched the progress of the controversy between the new and the old offices. Their own office, he said, was young years, but old in the amount of its business, and possessed the spring and activity of youth with the solidity of manhood.

Similar compliments were paid to Messrs. Farrance, Hardy, and Jones, the actuaries who had examined the state of the company's affairs, and to the directors and chairman, after which the proceeding terminated.

THE OLD ROMAN (GOGOFAU) GOLD MINES, CARMARTHENSHIRE.

This mine is situated on the side of a range facing the vale of the Cothy, eight miles west of Llandovery, and about seven-and-a-half miles east of Lampeter. The slate rock, which may be seen in many places uncovered by either earth or vegetation, belongs to the lower Silurian series, which has been intruded through anywhere in the immediate neighbourhood, although at this spot the uplifting rock is at no great distance beneath the surface, and has charged the superincumbent schists with its several metalliferous constituents, more or less combined with sulphur, some of which have become oxidised near the surface, whilst those which retain no affinity for oxygen have become metallic. The whole range represents masses of slate, much disturbed, and thrown into many different inclinations, though the general dip is north, and for several miles it is traversed by numerous veins and bands of quartz, taking a north-easterly direction; but many of them are so irregular, through the intervention of thin seams and strings of talc, various slides, and faults in the slates, that they often deviate from that direction. In several places, you will find a large mass of quartz bedded in the slate; a few yards further, it splits into 15 or 16 threads, becoming highly ferruginous, and traverses the slate in an altered direction of some 10 or 15 degrees.

The general character of the district struck me at once as being auriferous, and it offers a good illustration of several similar places I have seen in America and Australia, where large white quartz veins are alternately broken, and divided into numerous smaller ones, which in depth unite again, and become highly charged with the sulphures of iron and other metals.

The workings, which are very numerous, have, more especially where they were open to daylight, fallen together, leaving or about a mile along the range many hollows, which very much alter the original shape of the mountain. In several places, cavernous excavations have been made in the hard slates where they have been traversed by small quartz threads: one cave, which is about 15 feet in height, and 30 in width, must have richly repaid the enormous labour expended upon it; for, judging by the remnants left on the walls and roof, and the direction and quality of the strings, which all radiate from the centre of the cave, I should decidedly say that there had been a large bunch of quartz, thickly interwoven with native gold, extracted from this spot. At another place excavations have been carried on the side of a mass of white quartz, which has been followed to where it altered its character, and became auriferous. I was much amused to find that even this block of quartz has not escaped the mutilation while all similar rocks that dared to crop out on the surface in any part of the world have been more or less subjected to this last three years; for some one has been chipping this rock, just like the Londoners are fond of doing in North Wales, for the purpose of obtaining stuff to operate upon with their various quackeries. One thing is evident from the fact of these ancient miners leaving such masses of worthless rock untouched—that they were acquainted with the nature of their subject, and the laws by which gold prefers one part of the vein to another, or even, in some instances, leaves the vein, to take up its abode in the adjoining slates.

I shall pass over the many openings and galleries which constitute the bulk of these old works, as it would be merely a repetition of the same thing, and come to a very extensive excavation, which has been carried down from the surface, and entered by two lofty and roomy levels; for, although they are put in high up in the mountain, and are not more than 39 fms. in length, they are magnificent representations of the perfection that driving through hard rocks without the assistance of gunpowder had arrived at in those days. The upper level has been driven east-south-east for about 30 fathoms, and has a fall of about 4 inches in the fathom; its height varies from 6 to 7 feet, while its width is about 7 to 8 feet; the walls are smooth and even, as though it had been a great thoroughfare for many years. The lower level differs little from the upper in direction and width, although it is a little higher, and has not been finished off quite so clean, nor so much used; it has a fall in about 3 inches in the fathom. Both these levels have been driven to cut the same vein, or rather nest of veins. The first vein intersected contains sulphures of iron crystallised, but so small a trace of gold as to make it of no use; it has not been worked on. The next arrived at is that which seems to have formed the great attraction to these ancient workmen, for much has been done upon it, and large excavations made; but, through the falling in of deads and rubbish, it was difficult to see the character of the veins, or to estimate the amount of work done upon them. Still, by crawling about, and carefully examining the solid slates where they offered themselves, I was enabled to come to the conclusion, from the numerous thread-and-leader veins, that the quartz had not escaped the mutilation while all similar rocks had been worked upon, and, no doubt, realised very good results.

Although many scientific men have visited this spot, I am afraid most of them, if not all, have left with a wrong impression as to which were the gold ores. Heaps of milk-white-quartz, broken very small, have been mistaken for auriferous quartz; and the Romans have had credit given them for enjoying the knowledge of being able to treat such stuff for gold. It is possible that the Romans might have been acquainted with certain methods which to us is a lost science; but I was too much a disciple of the illustrations of modern chemistry to believe they got gold where none existed, for this small broken quartz is nothing more than the refuse, after concentration, of the auriferous slates and sulphures, and was thrown away as not containing sufficient gold for any commercial test.

With regard to the evidence to support the traditions of the country, that these are Roman works, the old Welsh names, which are always very expressive, and so often assist both the historian and antiquary, have a several instances been translated, to prove the connection of these mines with the enterprise of that great nation. Among many Roman reliques that have been found in the immediate neighbourhood, some of which still remain, and are carefully preserved by Mr. Johnes, the owner of this valuable estate, I shall only enumerate a few which, being in some measure connected with the extraction of gold, invited a larger share of my attention:—Part of a large clay crucible, about 12 inches high, and very thick, in which, perhaps, a pound weight of gold has been melted, and run into mould; several portions of mill and grindstones; a stone pestle, which, by the regular way in which it has been worn, and the square hole on the top, I should judge had been turned by some machinery or regular motion; a large four-sided block of hard sandstone, which seems to have been used as a mortar for grinding and pounding small portions of rock. I should not be inclined to assign this very rude specimen of art to the same workmen who so systematically and perseveringly carried on these extensive and scientific operations; rather would I give it to their followers, who now and then, shipping off little bits of rich stuff, required something to pulverise their specimens in, that they might liberate the gold by washing. I have seen something very similar in America, where a cross-beam is attached to the pestle, and worked by two men with a see-saw motion. Such a process, and on so small a scale, is not likely to have sprung from, or been adopted by, the same elevated mind that supervised the cutting of those beautiful levels.

When we come to consider the extent of all these works, coupled with the fact that they brought a large body of water round the country by artificial cuttings for nearly 10 miles, most likely to assist them in tearing away masses of partially undermined veins and rocks, scouring down accumulated debris, turning machinery, and washing their ores—when we think of the enormous labour and immense extent of time which such great undertakings must have carried them over, we may naturally conclude that they must have obtained many encouraging results to cause them to persevere for so many years.

An important point to be considered by those who would venture to re-work this seat is, that the old miners, not having had the disadvantage of powder for blasting, and steep to keep them dry, the numerous works are all superficial, and would be called, in the present day, little more than surface operations.

The principal ores to be worked with profit will be the sulphures of iron, and they must be looked to as the main support of the whole undertaking. Still there will be many bunches of rich gold quartz which will have escaped the old miner—not so much from his want of experience where to fix them (for by the bunches they have found they seem not to have wanted in skill), but from the great labour to drive any distance in so hard a formation with the implements they had at their command.

I obtained a specimen showing visible gold, from the roof of the big cave, which, when assayed, gave at the rate of 23½ ozs. to the ton. I likewise found in a waste heap a specimen thickly studded with very minute specks of gold; it most likely formed a portion of one of the strings of quartz hat are so very numerous in the setting, being about 1 inch in thickness, and very much stained with iron: 30 lbs. of sulphure of iron, not crystallised, mixed with lime, quartz, and slate, that I brought away with me, contained an equivalent of 25 dwt. of pure gold to the ton, and traces of several other metals.—SHELDON, April 5.

THE ROYAL HIBERNIAN AND GREAT WELSH SCHEMES.

ANOTHER ACT IN THE DRAMA.

At the Kingston Assizes, on Saturday and Monday, the cause Wilkes v. Plant, to which we referred in our last, was tried before Mr. Baron Platt. The action was brought by Mr. Samuel Wilkes, of Wolverhampton, to recover compensation in damages from Mr. Reuben Plant, for having unlawfully made a charge against plaintiff of having conspired with Henry Gibson to defraud him of £600, by false representations with regard to the value of a mine at Castlemaine, in Ireland, called the Royal Hibernian Silver-Lead Mine. The case lasted over the greater part of two days, but, as there has been a good deal of litigation upon the same matter, and most of the principal facts have been before reported, it will be scarcely necessary to give the evidence in detail. It appeared that the plaintiff was a cossainer, and also largely engaged in the iron-trade at Wolverhampton, and defendant was a person engaged in the same pursuits at Brierley Hill, in the same neighbourhood, and they were first introduced to each other upon the occasion of the Great Exhibition in 1851, and after this period there was a good deal of intimacy between them. The plaintiff, it appeared, was also acquainted with Gibson, who had an interest in several mines, among which was one called the Great Welsh Silver-Lead Mine; and from the correspondence that passed between the parties, there appeared to be no doubt that defendant was very anxious to have an interest in this particular mine, as well as the one that was afterwards projected, the Royal Hibernian, and at length he purchased a share in the former, for which he paid £250, and on April 28th, 1852, he gave £600, for a share in the latter. Gibson appeared to have been the principal agent in the matter, and it was admitted that he had received the cheque for the share in the Hibernian Mine: and it seemed that at one period of the transaction, so great was the confidence of the defendant and the other persons who had purchased shares on Gibson's responsibility and seal for their interest, that they made him a present of a piece of plate of 200 guineas' value. A short time, it appeared, sufficed to dispel the dreams of wealth that were expected to be derived from the mine, and defendant brought an action against Gibson to recover the money he had paid, but the action was not proceeded with, and in August of last year it appeared that he prepared a bill before the grand jury at the Central Criminal Court, charging the plaintiff and Gibson with conspiring together to defraud him by false representations relating to the mine in question. The bill was found, and upon this a warrant issued, and the plaintiff was taken into custody and examined before the magistrates at Wolverhampton, by whom he was ordered to find bail to answer the charge. It was alleged on the part of the plaintiff that he had just completed a lease for some extensive collieries that were likely to prove highly beneficial to his interest, and that he was doing a large business, which employed nearly 100 men; and it was said that the consequence of his being taken into custody under the circumstances was to destroy his credit, and that all his creditors came upon him, and he was obliged to assign his property, and had now nothing but an allowance of £10 a week from his estate to subsist upon. The indictment was in due course removed to the Queen's Bench by *certiorari*; and it appeared that Gibson left this country, and when the trial of the plaintiff came on before Lord Campbell the case was stopped, after defendant had given his evidence, the learned Judge ruling that there was no evidence to support the charge against him. The plaintiff, it appeared, was put to an expense of £3000, in defending the prosecution.

Mr

Mining Correspondence.

BRITISH MINES.

ALTARNUN CONSOLS.—Since last report we have put down a 7-inch lift in the shaft below the 20, and also a line of iron rods from the 10 to the 20, to work the mine. The lode, both in the back of the 20 and bottom of the 10, continues the same as last reported.—R. REYNOLDS : April 3.

PALLYVIRGIN.—The lode in the 10 fm. level, south of engine-shaft, is not looking quite so well for lead as it did last report; by its appearance to-day, it will not yield more than 25 cwt. of lead ore, 4 cwt. of pyrites, and 2 cwt. of copper oxide per fm. We have at surface from 6 to 8 tons of copper ore, from 3 to 4 tons of lead ore, and from 20 to 30 tons of pyrites.—R. W. SMITH : April 5.

BEDFORD UNITED.—I beg to inform you that the incline shaft is communicated to surface. There is no alteration in the 139 fm. level east. The lode in the 115 east is 3 feet wide, and will yield 5 tons of ore per fathom; in this level west the lode is 3 feet wide, producing saving work, and is a fine promising looking lode; the stopes in the back of this level are just the same as last reported. The lode in the 103 east is 2½ ft. wide, good saving work; Jackson's stopes in this level are still worth 7 tons of ore per fathom. The lode in the 90 east is 4 feet wide, producing stones of ore occasionally.—We are still driving by the side of the lode in the 80. I am happy to say that our tutwork department has improved within the last few days.—JAMES PHILLIPS : April 4.

BOILING WELL.—This month we hope to sink 3 fms. in the engine-shaft; the ground is not so hard as it has been, and should it continue as it is at present we shall be able to sink 3 fms. per month regularly. The western end in the 30 is still producing good stones of ore in the bottom of the level, leaving good tribute ground to work after we have cut the lode in the 60, and have drained the same; in the eastern end we are still cutting through the capel, in order to cut the north wall, and expect to cut through it daily. There is no improvement in the eastern end of the 40; as yet we are driving on the south part of the lode. The branches of ore which split off from the lode are all falling in on the south wall again; as soon as these branches fall together on the south wall we hope to have a productive lode in this end again.—G. REYNOLDS : March 31.

BOLENOEVE.—In the 30 fm. level, driving west, the lode is 2 feet wide, with a promising appearance. Other parts of the mine continue without any alteration.—WILLIAM ROBERTS : March 31.

BRONFLOYD.—There is not much alteration here. The forebreast of the eastern level has more water; the ore in this end is rather irregular, but will yield 15 cwt. lead per fm.; the western end is not quite so good, worth 10 cwt. per fm.—March 26.

—No change here since last report.—J. JONES : April 4.

CAE-GYNON.—We have cut into the lode in the 20 west for 5 ft., which is composed of black spar, blonde, and a mixture of lead ore; ground hard. We shall cut through the lode as fast as possible. In the 20 east we have cut north into the vein 3 ft., with spots of lead ore, and shall continue to get through the lode until we reach the north wall; I expect an improvement here soon. The stopes in the bottom of the 10 fm. level are yielding 10 cwt. per fathom. I agree with the sinking of a winze under the 10, which will ventilate the 20, and give us great advantages for taking away the ore ground. We are dressing all the stuff we can break, and are getting on as well as can be expected.—E. STEPHAN : April 3.

CALSTOCK UNITED.—During the past week our operations have been confined to easing and dividing the sump-shaft from the 50 to the 60, which is now completed, and the machine is drawing the stuff from the bottom. The men will now resume cutting the plan, which we think will be completed by the end of next week, when we shall be in a position to commence our drivings.—W. COOK : March 31.

—I beg to inform you that in the north cross-cut, from the eastern end a lode or branch has been intersected, about 1 ft. wide, containing very rich copper ore, and underlying south; from what can be seen of it at present, it appears to be a counter, and not the lode in search of; however, to prove it, it has been determined to drive east on its course, and, at the same time, to continue the cross-cut still further north. There is no alteration of any importance in the other workings.—W. B. COLLOM.

CAMBORNE CONSOLS.—The improvement I have to notice this week is in the 10 fm. level driving east on the counter, where the lode will turn out 1 ton of ore per fathom.—WILLIAM ROBERTS : March 31.

CARADON CONSOLS.—During the past week, the 37 cross-cut has been driven north about 3 ft.—no alteration here, but in the 27, going south, we have cut a lode about 16 inches wide, composed of fluor spar, peach, prian, and yellow copper ore, altogether a very promising lode; and from the appearance of the inner part we rather think we are not quite through it. I hope this is the beginning of better days.

CARRACK DEWS.—Since my last report, we have at Battery shaft been cutting a plat, and making other preparations for sinking below the 20 fm. level. We have also to fix a lift to this level; this will very probably take us a fortnight. In the 10 fm. level the men are employed sending up the copper they have broken. We cannot go any further here, as you have already been informed; the lode here is without alteration. At Eley's shaft, we are driving the 22 fm. level east, and also cutting a plat; the latter work, with the fixing of the lift, will perhaps occupy a fortnight; the lode in this level, driving east, is worth 9t. per fm. Our prospects continue very gratifying.—M. DUNN : April 3.

CARRECK-HOWA (LLANTYNS ECR).—The lode, which is going north-east in the upper level, is 5 ft. wide, mixed with green copper and gossan; the ground throughout the bottom of this lode is mixed with copper and gossan. Next month we shall have more room for sinking, and prove this lode in other beds. The latter end of last week I shifted the two explorers to the upper level; since then they have been clearing deads, and otherwise exploring in the south-west end of the same lode, as that is going towards the Ago. I am glad to state since they have been working there they have found most promising ground, which will pay well for its working; it is my intention to set this part to four fresh men next month—that will be next Saturday. The lower level, driving south-west, is much the same as last reported on. Last Saturday we shipped 16 tons of copper ore, consigned to Newton, Keates, and Co. This week we are dressing lead; from 8 to 10 tons will be ready for market the latter end of next week, after which we shall push on with the dressing of the lode in this level, driving east, is worth 9t. per fm. Our prospects continue very gratifying.—M. DUNN : April 3.

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NORTH DOWNS.—We have timbered and secured Bennett's shaft from the surface to the deep adit level (42 fms.); the sinking from the adit to the 10 required no timber, so that the shaft is completed to the bottom, and when the water, which is at present 5 fms. above the back of the 10, shall have gone down, we shall prepare to resume the workings. We do not anticipate that the water will rise much higher either in the mine or in the county adit; that, consequent upon the frost and snow is pretty well gone down, but it caused our engine to work at least two strokes per minute more than before. I regret to say that nothing new has occurred in the old pitches in West North Downs.—J. PRINCE : March 31.

NORTH WHEAL BASSET.—In the 112 fm. level, driving east of the new shaft, the lode is 3 feet wide, producing 1 ton of ore per fathom. In the 112 fm. level, driving west of the new shaft, the lode is 3 feet wide, producing 1 ton of ore per fathom. At the new shaft, sinking under the 112 fm. level, the lode is 4 feet wide, producing yellow ore throughout. In the 42 fm. level, driving west of Grace's, the lode is 5 feet wide, producing 8 tons of ore per fathom. All other parts of the mine are without alteration.—T. GLANVILLE : March 31.

NORTH WHEAL ROBERT.—The masons are making good progress in building our engine-house, and all other surface operations are pushing on as fast as possible. We received a good wagon load of timber from Bayley and Son this day. No alteration to notice in our ends and stoves since last week. At the Trial shaft, the lode continues its size, with good spots of lead in it.—A. PAYOR : April 3.

The lode in the 62 is about 2 feet wide, producing saving work. No lode taken down in the 42 this week; the rise and stoves in back of this level will yield 2½ tons of ore per fm. The lode in the 30 end west is about 3 ft. wide—good saving work. The stoves in back of this level are producing 2 tons of ore per fm. The masons are making good progress in building our engine-house, and all other surface operations are pushing on as fast as possible. We sampled, on Friday last, computed, 51 tons.—A. PAYOR : April 4.

KEL TOR.—An improvement is taking place on the copper lode in the 20 fathom level east; the large quantity of mundic hitherto seen in the lode is found to be leaving, and the copper ore increasing in it. The men have resumed driving east again on its course, at 5½ per fm. In the 20 fm. level west the end is in the flockan of the silver-lead lode; there are 2 fms. more to drive here to cut the main part of the lodes set to drive at 3½ per fm. In the 35 fm. level we are in daily expectation of cutting the silver-lead lode; there is a beautiful stratum of ground in the present end, set to drive at 5½ per fm.—W. B. COLLOM.

FEDNANDREA UNITED.—We are in fork this day to the 68 fm. level, west of the engine-shaft, on the engine and Skinner's lode; we have still 9 feet to drive to the bottom of the 68 fm. level at the engine-shaft, the eastern level being that much deeper than the western. We find 4 fm. continuing in the end of the ground as deep as we have drained, and equal in size as when last reported. The lode west of the engine-shaft, on the engine-lode, is very large, and will produce a quantity of tin-stuff. In the 55 fm. level, east of the engine, the lode in this end is 2 ft. wide, producing saving work for tin; this lode seems to be standing in whole from the 47, but the end is driven through. I have put two men to cut through the lode in the 60, this end being about 25 fms. west of the shaft; the lode in this end is 2½ to 3 feet wide, producing rich stones of tin, and from every appearance fail to produce a large amount of stamping-stuff. We have been north of the engine and Skinner's lode, in the 68 fm. level; the lode east of the cross-course is 1½ to 2 feet wide; the lode in this level is tony. I cannot inform you of its value, or the extent it is driven on, the lode being in deep water; the north cross-cut is still continuing north on the cross-course towards the north lodes. We find the engine-shaft filled with stuff in the 68 fathom level, consequently we shall have to rid the shaft to get at the 65 east of the same. We have a pump put on, and the sumpmen engaged to rise with all speed; we have 9 feet to clear up, and we calculate in the coming week to complete the job, and drain the level east and west. Our tribute is much the same as last month, and other things on the mine much as usual. We have 350 tons of tin-stuff (average work) on the floor, which will be offered for sale to-day.—JOHN DEBRIDGE : March 31.

PEMBROKE AND WEST CRINNIS.—There is no alteration worthy of notice in the 50 east of Hunter's, on the north lode, since last reported; in the stoves in back of this level no lode has been taken down during the past week. In the 90, west of Reid's, the lode we are glad to say, is still looking promising; it is 2 ft. wide, and will produce 1½ ton per fm., worth 9½ per ton. We have nearly completed Reid's' whim-shaft to the 112 fm. level, and shall commence to drive the cross-cut south on Tuesday morning next.—East Crinnis : In the 151, west of whim-shaft, the lode is 1½ foot wide, unproductive; in the 134, east of engine-shaft, the lode is 5 feet wide, producing good stones of ore. The 122 east, on the main lode, is small and poor; the 122 west, on the main lode, is 2 feet wide, producing a small quantity of ore, but not enough to value. The stoves in the back of this level are much the same as last reported. We have intersected Philip's lode in the 122 fm. level cross-cut south; it is about 1 foot wide, unproductive, and have set to drive west on the same; we shall not drive east on this lode, as, by driving east on Job's lode, we shall intersect this lode. The 122, east and west of Job's lode, are producing small quantities of ore, but not enough to value. There is no alteration in any other of our levels since last reported. In the tin department we have taken down the lode, and drawn the tin-stuff to surface; the quantity is about 3 tons, and we consider it will produce 10 cwt. of black tin; the lode is 6 in. wide, and rich for tin, we have, therefore, set to drive the 30 east on it, at 70s. per fathom. The tribute department is much as usual.—W. ANNEXAR : March 31.

PENQUEAN SLATE QUARRIES.—In another month or six weeks we shall set all the quarry in bargains. We are not producing much just now, as the men are principally engaged erecting new machinery, and laying down tramways. We shipped 50 tons of slate and planed slabs last week, varying from 1 to 3 inches thick.—JOSEPH ASHWORTH : April 5.

PERRAN CONSOLS.—The 58 has been driven west in the past week 8 feet; the lode is 9 in. wide, yielding a little tin. The ground in the cross-cut driving in the 40 is changed for the better; should this improvement continue our progress will be much greater. We sampled yesterday 255 barrows of tin-stuff.—J. RICHARDS ; F. GUNDRY : April 4.

RHOEYDD SLATE QUARRY.—Two months having nearly elapsed since we placed before the committee and shareholders, at some length, the particulars of our workings at Rhosydd, it is with much satisfaction we are now enabled to state that the promises we then made, and the opinions then given, are about to be fully realised.

We have roofed up under the clay slant or joint in the second level 27 yards, through fine a bed of slate as was ever seen, and the entire of the quarry is all that can be wished. We expect 3 or 4 yards more roofing will bring us to daylight, when by some widening on top to the south, and other preparations, we shall by the end of April, or beginning of May, commence slate-making; and we again begin to assure all connected with Rhosydd that the high character we have from time to time given of the quarry is about to be proved—that nothing can be more gratifying to us, both shareholders and managers, than the present prospects.—JOHN HARPUR ; THOMAS JONES : March 31.

ROUND HILL.—We beg to hand you the monthly report of this mine:—In the 30 fm. level north we have driven 4 fms. 2 ft. 6 in., the lode in which has been disordered by silty ground. In the 20 fm. level, the winze has been sunk during the past month 2 fms. 5 ft.; being now down 8 fms. 5 ft.; this winze is suspended, being near the back of the 30, and that level is not up to the winze within about 9 feet, consequently we intend to put the men who were employed in the winze to clear out the 20 fm. level north of the winze. The 10 fm. level south has been driven 6 fms. 2 ft., through shale, in which no lode has existed, but it has intersected the east and west lode, at shown on the plan, but existing as a joint in this confused ground. We have for the present suspended this end until we receive instructions from you; but, as stated in former reports, it is merely speculative; and from this point to reach the other east and west lode will be about 35 fathoms (as marked on the plan), which we consider too far distant, under present circumstances, it being in shaly ground, wherein a lode cannot exist, therefore we are not justified in recommending the driving of this end. Our sampling for March has not realised our expectations, in consequence of the rods having broken several times during the month, being the old rods left in the mine by the former company, which has prevented the men from working, by reason of the water being in, and caused our sampling to be much smaller than it otherwise would be; but this will be remedied as early as possible, by altering the drawing lift into a plunger, which will be done in a few days. The cross-cut at the Coppice shaft has intersected the branch, or lode, that passed through the shaft, and we have dilled it, and find it is not the Coppice lode. We intend driving a few fms. on its course, to prove it, after which we shall drive east to cut the Coppice lode. Our sampling for March is computed 30½ tons.—W. BARRATT ; A. ROWSON : April 4.

SILVER BROOK.—The engine-shaft is now sunk 2 fms. 3 ft. below the 33, in which the lode is about 4 feet wide, composed of capel, spar, and carbonate of lime, with a mixture of lead and zinc ore, 2 ft. wide, worth 12s. per fm. The lode in the 33, driving south of engine-shaft, is not quite productive as last reported on, being composed of capel, mundic, and zinc, with not so much lead for the present; the stoves in the back of this level continue to produce good work for lead and zinc ore; the new south shaft is sunk 5½ fms. below the 31. The stoves, both on caunter and Little Crinnis lodes, are yielding ore equal to any former period, and the mine generally, has a pleasing aspect.—April 4.

SORTRIDGE CONSOLS.—Last Sunday evening our boiler sprung a leak, which took us some part of the week to repair; however, it is again all right, and the water is 5 fathoms under the 20. The pitches in back of the 20 are as rich as ever, course of ore, and I have no doubt will continue. We are progressing with the engine-shaft first-rate.—J. METERELL.

SOUTH BOG.—The ground in the shaft sinking below the 35 fm. level continues very hard for sinking; I hope to be down 10 fathoms under the 35 in the course of another month from this time. The ground in the 35 fm. end, driving north, is a little stronger for driving. There is no alteration to notice in the stoves under the 23 fm. level since last reported; they continue to produce good work for lead ore, worth 12s. per fathom. I have put two men to drive the 10½ fm. level a fathom or two south, as I have an opinion that the lead ore will come up behind the old workings, south of winze; but, however, we shall shortly prove this. The winze in Powell's adit is sunk 10 fathoms, the ground being much stronger for sinking. By sinking this winze 7 fathoms deeper, we shall hole to the 35 fm. level, when we shall have a ventilation through the mine. The lode in the end of Powell's adit, driving south, is at present small and poor. We have two men employed in putting up a fan to blow air up Powell's adit; we shall get this completed in a very few days. We are getting on with our dressing operations satisfactorily, and shall have 20 tons of lead ore ready for market by the end of next week.—S. MORRIS : April 5.

SOUTH CARN BREA.—We have no alteration requiring particular notice since last week. The lode at the flat-rod shaft is still producing grey and yellow copper ore throughout.—THOMAS GLANVILLE : March 31.

SOUTH CORK COPPER.—The 50 has been driven during the past month 7 fms. 3 ft. 6 in., making a distance from the engine-shaft of nearly 17 fms. There is a portion of grey cob disseminated through the lode, although I regret to say it is not so productive of copper as might be expected from its proximity to the old mine, but from present favourable indications, I think change will be long experienced. I hope before long to be able to inform you that a communication has been made with the old mine. The water in the old mine has been drained to the 22, which is as deep as it can be drained without incurring much additional cost; what remains below that level cannot be a great quantity, and by using the usual necessary precautions can, I think, be let off by boring to the 30 fm. driving, with perfect safety. I have some men employed in the old mine in stopping a piece of lode in the back of the 17, about 14 fms. to the end of the old whim-shaft, from which some very excellent grey ore has been obtained during the past week. This is the only piece of ground we have yet discovered in the old mine worthy of notice; reports, however, are very favourable in regard to the state of the lode in the bottom of the old mine. The dressing operations proceeded more satisfactorily last month. We have now 30 tons of ore on the floors dressed and ready for shipment.—F. TAKKEER : April 5.

SOUTH CRENVER.—At the flat-rod shaft, sinking below the 94 fm. level, the lode is 1 ft. wide, but poor. In the 54 fm. level, east of the engine-shaft, the lode is 1 ft. wide, producing stones of copper ore. In the 7½ fm. level, east of the engine-shaft

the lode is 2 ft. wide, producing 3 tons of copper ore per fathom. In the 64 fm. level east of Gore's shaft, the lode is 3½ ft. wide, producing 4 tons of good copper per fm. In the 54 fm. level, east of Gore's, the lode is 4 ft. wide, producing 5 tons of copper ore per fathom. Our tribute pitches throughout the mine are much the same as last reported.—EDWARD CHEWING : April 2.

SOUTH DEVON GREAT CONSOLS.—In the cross-cut, driving south from the engine-shaft, we are meeting with branches, which may be regarded as belonging to the lode; these branches are likely to unite in depth, and will probably effect an improvement in the lode. The part of the lode on which we are driving in this level continues to improve as we proceed towards the kilns. The cross-cut in the adit is progressing fairly, in ground very congenial for mineral.—J. COOK : April 4.

SOUTH WHEAL TOLGS.—The south lode at Michell's engine-shaft, is large and promising, producing some good stones of ore. The south lode in the 90 fathom level, east of ditto, is small and poor; the south lode in the 90 fathom level, west of ditto, is 18 in. wide, but poor. Youren's lode in the 78 fm. level, west of Michell's, is looking promising, but not yielding sufficient to value. Youren's lode in the 66 fathom level, west from ditto, is small and unproductive. The lode in the 30 fm. level, east and west of Moreton's engine-shaft, is poor. The lode in the 20 fathom level, east from ditto, is a large kindly lode, yielding some ore; the lode in the 20 fm. west from ditto, is small and poor. The lode in the winze in the 10 fm. level, west from ditto, is 18 in. wide, yielding 1½ ton per fm.—March 31.

SOUTH WHEAL YEOLAND.—At this mine no lode has yet been intersected in the cross-cut south; the calculated distance has been driven, and the cause of the non-appearance of the lode seems to be due to a small cross-course, which we have passed through, and which has, undoubtedly shifted it a little out of its course. We have discovered a very promising lode about 7 fms. north of the one intersected in the north cross-cut; it presents a good appearance on the back, being composed of Mundic, south, &c., and is a large kindly lode, yielding some ore; the lode in the 20 fm. level, east and west of Moreton's engine-shaft, is poor. The lode in the 20 fathom level, east from ditto, is small and poor. The lode in the 30 fm. level, west from ditto, is 18 in. wide, yielding 1½ ton per fm.—March 31.

SOUTH WHEAL YEOLAND.—The engine-shaft measured to-day 2 fms. 4 ft. 9 in. sunk, making 10 fms. 3 ft. 9 in. from the bottom of the 20; it will be necessary to sink about 2 feet further (which is the extent of our present lift of pump) for a good fork, when we shall commence driving the new 30 fm. level; the sinking has been set to 12 men, at the rate of 16s. per fathom for the depth required, and the new 30 fm. level set to the same pace to drive east, 2 fms. extent, at 3s. 10d. per fathom; when this is done, the shaft will be divided, cased, &c., to bring the machine, kibbles, &c., to bottom. In the 30 fm. pit is cut, and the level continued, in order to get under where the shoot of ore is gone down to the bottom of the 20 fm. level. The 20 end east is driven 4 ft. 3 in., and the cross-cut south is driven 1 fm. 1 ft.; this is not set again, the men who were here being employed in the rise. The rise in the back is driven 5 fms. 2 ft. on the course of the slide, or flookan; set again at 1½ per fathom, 3 fathoms extent or hole, by four men. A new pitch has been set in the back in the 20 fm. level from the rise as far east as the present end, to two men, at 10s. in 17, for one or two months; the landing set at 3s. 3d. per 100 machine kibbles for the month. The pitch in the back of the 16 has been set to two men, at 8s. in 17; the filling has been set at 3s. per 100 machine kibbles for the month. No other change to report.—W. TREGLAY : March 31.

WHEAL ROBINSON.—The engine-shaft is now down 4½ fms. below the 53 fm. level. The sinking has been impeded, in consequence of the great accumulation of the frost about the engine-wheel; and then, again, when the thaw took place, a part of the wall of the wheel-pit fell, and obliged us to stop the wheel for several days to repair it. An alteration has taken place in the underlie of the lode at the shaft below the 53; instead of it being 4 ft. per fm., as it is at and above the 53, it is not more than 2 ft. per fm., at the bottom of the shaft, and much more kindly in appearance. This alteration in the underlie will shorten the distance between this and the north lodes about one-half at the depth you purpose to intersect them. The lode in the deep adit east is 2 ft. wide, and consists of peach and gossan, impregnated with mundic and rich copper ore. The tin tributes have made a very bad return indeed; Mr. Clegg has, no doubt, given you the particulars. In the past two months they worked in the back of the 20 fm. level, but will now begin to work in the back of the deep adit.—J. NANCE : April 3.

ST. AUSTELL CONSOLS.—To-day I set our tribute pitches on tin, and one tribute pitch on copper; we have another tinpitch to set in a few days. The 25 end cast is still producing good work for tin, and the lode is large. I believe a few months will give our tin department a very encouraging aspect. In the 45 we have about 4 ft. more to drive to cut the nickel band; this we shall do next week. The other parts of the mine are as last reported. You will receive a tin bill for 60s. or 70s. at drive 37, per fm.—R. H. WILLIAMS : March 31.

TALIESIN.—Our proceedings for the past week are—Four men stowing the bottom on No. 13 lode, not quite so good in appearance as it was last week; two men stowing the back, much the same; five men stowing the bottom on No. 8 lode, east of No. 12, much the same, producing good ore; two men stowing the back, much the same; one filler, one banker, our trammings to be crusher, one boy breaking stones, one blacksmith, one engineer; in all, eighteen men and one boy, besides dressing pax, one dresser, ten boys, and two girls. One dressed, 2 tons.—W. WILLIAMS : March 31.

TEES HEAD CONSOLS.—I have no important change to report on this week.—T. DICKINSON : April 2.

TOKENBURY.—In my last I told you we were engaged in fixing a new angle-bob at the mouth of the shaft, the old one not being sufficient to bear the weight of rods any longer; this work is now completed, and I hope the water will be in fork to the 37 by Monday next; and I have a pair of men waiting to take on with the driving as soon as the shaftmen have forced the water out of the bottom; this shall be attended to as fast as possible; by this you will see that the work underground has been much retarded during the past week.

TRELEIGH CONSOLES.—The ground in the cross-cut, driving north from Carr's shaft, consists of a light blue slate, with smooth surfaces of peroxide of iron in the points dipping towards the lodes, which is considered favourable for mineral deposits in this district. The end is driven from the shaft 5 fms. 3 ft., and scarcely any water has made its appearance until yesterday; apparently, a large stream is issuing from the bottom of the end, proceeding, no doubt, from a branch, or Good Fortune lode, before us. Everything is arranged to commence sinking the engine-shaft whilst the end named above is being continued driving, which we shall do on Monday next, by nine men, at 10s. per fathom. The engine-works well, and keeps down the water, going rather less than one stroke per minute.—JOHN PRINCE : March 31.

TRELEWEN.—In the 40, north end, the lode is 1 foot wide, producing 6 cwt. of ore per fm. In the same level south the lode is 1½ ft. wide, producing 7 cwt. of ore per fm. The 30, north end, is not so good as when last reported, but producing some good saving work. The stoves are producing as usual. We sampled last Thursday, computed, 24 tons of ore. The sumpmen are now making preparations for sinking the 30 east on the 30 fm. level north of the 20, which will be 10 fms. per fm.—A. PAYOR : April 4.

TREWETHA.—In the 40, north end, the lode is 1 foot wide, producing 6 cwt. of ore per fm. In the same level south the lode is 1½ ft. wide, producing 7 cwt. of ore per fm. The 30, north end, is not so good as when last reported, but producing some good saving work. The stoves are producing as usual. We sampled last Thursday, computed, 24 tons of ore. The sumpmen are now making preparations for sinking the 30 east on the 30 fm. level north of the 20, which will be 10 fms. per fm.—A. PAYOR : April 4.

TREWETHA.—The ground in the cross-cut, south of Taylor's shaft, is hard, the men are driving about 6½ feet a week; there is a floor of spar in the back of the end, dipping south, and when we have passed through this I am in hopes that the ground will alter for the better; there is still a quantity of water coming out of the end. I have to-day set to the men to drive 4 fathoms, or for the month, at 9s. 12d. per fathom; the ground driven last month measured 5 fms. 0 ft. 9 in.—April 2.

TREWETHA.—The ground in the cross-cut, south of Taylor's shaft, is hard, the men are driving about 6½ feet a week; there is a floor of spar in the back of the end, dipping south, and when we have passed through this I am in hopes that the ground will alter for the better; there is still a quantity of water coming out of the end. I have to-day set to the men to drive 4 fathoms, or for the month, at 9s. 12d. per fathom.—A. PAYOR : April 4.

The Mining Market; Prices of Metals, Ores, &c.

METAL MARKET, London, April 7, 1855.

COPPER.	£. s. d.	BRASS (sheets) p. lb.	1 0 1/2 d.
Sheathing and bolts	0 1 2	Wire	1 1/2 d.
Bottoms	0 1 2		
Old (Exchange)	0 1 2 1/2		
Best selected	p. ton 129 0 0	Foreign	23 10 0-23 15 0
Tough cake	126 0 0	To arrive	23 12 6 -
Tile	126 0 0		
South American	-		
IRON.	per Ton.		
*Bars, Welsh, in London.	8 0 0-8 5 0	TIN.	
Ditto, to arrive	7 12 6-7 15 0	English, blocks	111 0 0 -
Nail rods	8 0 0 -	Ditto, Bars (in barrels)	112 0 0 -
+, Stafford, in London	8 10 0 -	Ditto, Refined	114 0 0 -
+Bars ditto	8 10 0-9 0 0	Banc	111 0 0-9 112 0 0
+Hoops ditto	9 0 10 0-10 0	Straits	107 0 0 -
+Sheets, single	5 0 10-10 0	TIN-PLATES.	
Fig. No. 1, in Wales	4 15 0-5 5 0	IC Charcoal, 1st qua. p. bx.	1 10 0-1 11 6
Refined metal, ditto		IC Ditto 1st quality	1 10 0-1 17 6
Bars, common, ditto	6 10 0-7 0 0	IC Ditto 2d quality	1 10 0-1 19 0
Ditto, railway, ditto	6 5 0-6 10 0	IC Ditto 2d quality	1 14 0-1 15 0
ditto, Swedish, in Lond.	14 0 0-15 10 0	IC Coke	1 5 0-1 7 0
Fig. No. 1, in Clydes	12 0 0-13 0 0	IC Ditto	1 11 0-1 13 0
LEAD.		Canada plates	p. ton 14 0 0-15 0 0
English Pig	21 10 0-22 0 0	In London; 20s. less at the works.	
Ditto sheet	23 0 0-23 10 0		
Ditto red lead	23 10 0 -	Yellow Metal Sheathing	p. lb. 111 d 1s
Ditto white	27 10 0-28 0 0	Wetterstedt's Pat. Met., p. wwt. 2 2 d	
Ditto patent shot	25 10 0 -	Stirling's Non-laminating, or Hardened, Surface Rail., p. ton	9 0 0-9 2 0
Spanish, in bond	21 0 0-22 0 0	Toughened Pigs Glasg. - - 5 0	
American	none.	Ditto Wales 4 0 0-4 5 0	
FOREIGN STEEL.		Indian Charcoal Pigs - - 6 10 0	
Swedish, in kgs to arr. 18 10 0 -		In London	
Ditto, in fagots	22 0 0 -		
English, Spring	22 0 0-24 0 0		
QUICKSILVER.	p. lb. 1s 10d-1s 11d		
* In Liverpool, 5s. per ton less.			
† At the works, 1s. to 1s. 6d. per box less.			

REMARKS.—Business continues to be transacted on a limited scale; nevertheless, with the exception of slight fluctuations, our market generally is steady.

COPPER.—The further orders given out by Government tend to keep the market firm. The exports to the East have been large; about 126 tons of cake and sheathing have been shipped on account of the East India Company.

IRON.—The enquiries for rails have caused some of the makers of inferior quality of English bars to quote higher prices, but in few instances have they succeeded in obtaining any advance; there are still sellers at 6s. 10s. f.o.b. at the works. Staffordshire qualities are dull, even at the recent decline. Scotch-pigs during the week have given way about 2s. 6d. per ton, business having been done in mixed numbers at 57s. 6d. cash, since which the market has slightly rallied, 58s. being now quoted by sellers.

LEAD.—There is more demand for this metal, and it is probable some good transactions may take place in the course of a little time.

SPELTER.—The consumption is but moderate, and no speculative feeling evinces itself in our market. The stock announced on the 1st inst. in this port was 2886 tons, which is the smallest stock ever since Sept., 1849, when the price was firm, at 15s. to 16s. per ton.

TIN.—On the 2d inst. an unexpected decline of 3s. per ton in the price of English qualities was announced by the smelters, at which price the market is firm. Foreign has not given way to the same extent; in fact, Banca on the spot is rather better, if anything, sellers being very indifferent about selling; sales have been made to-day in Amsterdam of parcels at 64s. fls. Straits is in good demand.

TIN-PLATES.—The shipments have increased.

STEEL.—Swedish keg wanted. No arrivals as yet.

QUICKSILVER as last.

GLASGOW, APRIL 4.—The anticipation of small shipments had a depressing effect on our pig-iron market on Monday, prices turning considerably in favour of buyers, as long as 58s. 6d. was accepted for cash. Up till this evening the feeling has remained dull, and operators evince very little desire to do business, times being too critical to induce people to speculate in the article to any great extent. Business has been transacted to-day at 57s. 6d. and 58s. usual cash terms, the market closing nominally at the latter figure. No. 1, g.m.b., 58s. 9d.; No. 3, g.m.b., 57s. 6d. Shipments for the week ending the 31st of March—Foreign, 5802 tons; coastwise, 7035 tons=12,117 tons. In the corresponding week of 1854, they were—Foreign, 6091 tons; coastwise, 12,316 tons=18,407 tons.

LIVERPOOL, APRIL 5.—The makers, at the preliminary meeting on Thursday last, decided to reduce the price of manufactured iron 20s. per ton. As this reduction had been anticipated by smaller makers, it will only affect first brands. The demand continues light for both home and foreign, and seems likely to do so through the spring.—Pig-Iron: Influenced by the supposed favourable indications of peace at the conference early in the week, the market steadily advanced from 57s. 6d. to 59s. 6d., at which considerable business was done. At this point, the operators for a rise lost confidence, and on attempting to realise, buyers withdrew, and the market at once receded to 57s. 6d., closing very quiet and dull. The prices of Tin-plates are—Charcoal, 1C, Liverpool, 12. 12s. 6d. per box; Coke, IC, 17. 5s. 6d. Merchant Bar Iron, in Wales, 61. 15s.; and in Liverpool, 77. 5s. per ton.

CHARLEROI, APRIL 5.—The *Journal de Charleroi* states that their Metal Market remains nearly in the same condition. The Usine de Couillet has been much inconvenienced, by being unable to obtain accommodation from the State Railway for the conveyance of the iron on order, and have even been compelled to have recourse to water carriage, and to borrow trucks from the North of France line. The publicity given to this fact has caused a satisfactory movement to be made by the authorities, with a view to the establishment of a station at Couillet, which was much required by the commercial population of the neighbourhood. At Liege, there has been little business done in iron, but the demand for coal and coke continues active, and prices are firmly maintained.

PARIS.—The demand for all descriptions of iron continues extremely good, and the retail trade has greatly improved since building operations have been commenced. The prices remain the same nominally, but transactions have taken place much below the fixed price. At St. Dizier, there have been numerous transactions effected, but in most instances holders have been compelled to accede to a slight reduction. Other metals, both at Paris and St. Dizier, remain much the same, with an upward tendency rather than otherwise.

MINES.—The chief business of the week has again been in dividend mines, which maintain their prices, and are in good demand. In North Bassett, a rise from 17s. to 19s. and 19s. 10s., has taken place, owing to the very rich quality of the ores now for sale, and which, it is said, will realise upwards of 4000s., and enable the directors at the next meeting to charge three months' costs against two months' ores, and give, besides, a dividend of 5s. or 10s. per share. Wheal Bassett have been done at 540s. to 545s.; Great Devon, 370s. to 375s.; South Francois, 352s. 10s. to 357s. 10s.; West Bassett, 30s.; Rosewarne, 15s.; Wheal Wrey, 5s. to 5s. 2d.; West Caradon, 170s.; South Tamar, 5s.; Herodsfoot, 2s. to 2s. 10s.; Bedford United, 9s. 7s. 6d. to 9s. 12s. 6d.; Vale of Towy, 15s. to 15s., and in request, a still further improvement having taken place in the mine. North Crofty shares have risen from 6s. to 12s. and 15s. per share, owing to a rich discovery having been made in the 80 fm. level, where the lode is said to yield from 4 to 5 tons of copper ore per fm., and a winze below the 60 fm. level 15 tons per fathom. Nanteos and Penrhiew have advanced to 17. 15s. 2s.; a great improvement has taken place here, in Eystumteen deep adit, and the 46 end east is yielding 2 to 3 tons per fathom. Tamar Consols, 2s. to 2s. 5s.; Tincoff, 2s. 5s.; Sortridge Consols, 2s. 15s. to 3s. Wheal Clifford is looking well, and at the meeting, to be held in Cornwall, on Saturday (this day), a dividend of 2s. 10s. per share will be declared. At the United Mines, the lode will soon be cut in the 220, where a rich course of ore is anticipated. At Great Consols, a further improvement is spoken of. Wheal Kitty (Uny Lelant) appears in demand, and the price has gone up to 12s. 10s. 15s. At North Wheal Vor, a fine discovery of tin, worth 80s. to 90s. per fm., has been made. At Llandudno, the returns for two months have realised 997s. 7s. 10s., the cost being 1036s. 1s. 6d.; the returns, therefore, are gradually increasing, and the mine, before long, become very profitable.

The disheartening effects of the great fall in the price of lead ores are now being most sensibly felt, if we may judge from the results of meetings held during the present week. At the commencement of the war, an impression seemed to prevail that lead would rise in price, and greater profits be made from the mines. This has not been the case; on the contrary, the prohibited exportation, and the stoppage of building operations, have had an opposite effect, though we cannot think that to these causes alone are to be traced the present depression. According to the price of lead itself, the amount per ton given to the miners for their ores is considerably too low, and owing, we fear, to the want of proper competition in the trade. The Tamar Smelting Works have been for some time suspended, other

smelting firms are but indifferent buyers, and, in consequence, those who do buy get the ores at their own prices. At the South Tamar meeting, the dividend was 2s. 6d. per share, instead of 10s., which the prospects some months since led the shareholders to expect. The lead ores of this mine are very rich in silver, and, therefore, the depreciation in lead is not of that great importance which it is to other mines having but few ounces per ton; still, the ores are fetching 6s. per ton less than formerly, a considerable item upon 100 tons per month. At Herodsfoot, the ores contain only 15 cts. of silver to the ton, and the decline in price has had more serious effects. About twelve months ago, the ores were making 17s. 10s. and 18s. per ton; the price now obtained for the same quality ores is 11s. 10s. to 12s., not realising enough to meet the costs of the mine. The sales of the last quarter, owing to the stoppage of the dressing operations, were only 98 tons; but even this, at the old price, would have yielded a profit, whereas, owing to the decline of 6s. per ton (altogether 58s. upon the sale), there was loss on the quarter's workings; and as the manager gave no hopes, under such circumstances, of meeting expenses, it was decided to suspend the deep workings, and limit operations to such points as would pay, and to take the opinions of the shareholders generally as to the propriety of going on with the mine, or of at once re-aliasing and dividing the assets of the company. Rix Hill, which was in the dividend list of 1853, is, we hear, to be abandoned. The stoppage of these mines will render labour cheaper, and we understand there is a great probability of timber and other materials declining in value. For many months, it must be remembered, in addition to the low price obtained for their produce, the miners have had to contend against a rise of nearly 50 per cent. in their expenses, included under the heads of labour and materials. At Herodsfoot meeting, it was stated that the lode from which great things were expected had been cut 10 fms. below the adit, but at the point of intersection it was poor; in driving upon it, it has greatly improved, and offers good prospects of success. The arrears of calls, it appeared, were so heavy, that those who had paid up were not disposed to make another call until the old one was cleared off, and a special meeting was ordered, to take future operations into consideration. Now that the machinery is all complete, and has been erected at great expense, the manager thought it would be a pity to abandon the mine at the present stage. It is well known that Herodsfoot returned many thousand pounds worth of lead at shallow levels, and Herodsfoot, in the same district, is now only 10 fms. below the head.

In the Bullion Market.—Mexican and South American dollars, 4s. 11 1/2 d. per oz., nominal. Bar silver containing gold, all gold above 5 grains in the pound to be paid for, 5s. 1d. per oz. standard. Bar silver without gold, 5s. 0 1/2 d. per oz. standard. Bar gold, 77s. 9d. per oz. standard. Spanish doubloons, 77s. 3d. per oz. Columbian doubloons, 74s. to 74s. 3d. per oz. Fine cake silver, 6. 6 1/2 d. per oz. Platina, 18s. per oz.

At Wheal Bassett meeting, on Tuesday, the accounts showed—Balance from last account, 1173s.; ore sold (less dues), 903s.; 18s. 3d.; sundry discounts, 9s. 6s. 6d.=0.31s. 1s. 9d.=Mine costs and merchants' bills, 428s. 10s. 3d.; income tax, 142s. 16s. 6d.; South Mine loss, as below, 199s. 12s. 6d.; by dividend (20s. per share), 51s. 1d.; leaving balance to next account, 728s. 2s. 6d.

The South Mine account—Mine costs and merchants' bills, 329s. 2s. 6d.; ore sold (less dues), 128s. 17s. 3d.; showing balance against mine, 199s. 12s. 6d.

At Alfred Consols meeting, on Monday, the accounts showed—Balance last account, 1086s. 5s. 9d.; ore sold (deducting dues 1-18th, 279. 19s. 7d.), 475s. 2s. 1d. =584s. 7s. 10d.-Labour cost, December and January, 157s. 12s. 2d.; merchants' bills, 115s. 2s. 2d.; doctor and club, 21. 10s. 4d.; sundry advances, 187s. 10s.; on account of new engine, 600s.; income tax, 231s. 10s. 4d.; leaving balance in favour of mine, 200s. 13s. 10d. A dividend of 4s. per share (1024s.) was declared, and the balance was 874s. 8s. 1d. Captain Matthew White reported that they had resumed sinking the No. 2 winze under adit 120, where the lode was 5 ft. wide, but disordered by a small slide, dipping from 10 to 20, and worth now 10s. per fm. The tribute department was the same as last reported.

At South Tamar Consolmating, on Tuesday, the accounts showed—Balance from last account, 104s. 19s. 7d.; ores sold (less dues), 950s.; 5s. 4d.; fluor-spur sold, 2s. 15s.=945s. 19s. 11d.=Mine cost, Nov. to Feb., 605s. 7s. 1d.; sundry discounts, 9s. 6s. 6d.=0.31s. 1s. 9d.=Mine costs and merchants' bills, 794s. 6s. 7d.; secretary's salary, office rent, &c., 7s. 10s. 6d.; income tax, 227s. 6s. 3d.; leaving balance in favour of mine, 270s. 17s. 6d. A dividend of 2s. 6d. per share (750s.) was declared. The estimated balance of receipts over payments before the meeting to be held in July is 2882s. 5s. 10d.

At the annual general court of the Company of Copper Miners in England (Sir John Dean Paul, Bart., governor, in the chair), a dividend of 7 1/2 per cent. was declared on the preference share, and 1 per cent. on the consolidated stock, payable one-half on the 27th inst., at the other moiety on the 27th of October next. The trade profits on the year had been 24,504s. 12s., and 1636s. 19s. 9d. paid upon preference shares. It was resolved unanimously that, for the future, the balance-sheet should be published, and circulated among the proprietors, previous to the day of meeting. Sir John Dean Paul, Bart., was re-elected governor; Sir John H. Kelly, Bart., deputy-governor; Messrs. William Gilbertson, John Pierse Kennard, and Capt. Bosanquet, R.N., assistants; and Messrs. Beattie and Whatman, auditors.

At the United Mines meeting, on Wednesday, the accounts showed—Balance last account, 271s. 7s. 3d.; ores sold (less dues), 509s.; 1s. 1d.; sundry receipts, 251s. 19s. 7d.=9622s. 7s. 1d.=Mine costs and merchants' bills, 794s. 6s. 7d.; office expenses, 2s. 10s. 6d.; sundry advances, 120s. 10s.; income tax, 270s. 17s. 6d.; leaving balance in favour of mine, 270s. 17s. 6d. The accounts were passed, and a call of 2s. per share made.

At Herodsfoot Consolmating, on Monday, the accounts showed—Balance last account, 200s. 16s. 8d.; calls received, 297s. 10s.=498s. 6s. 8d.=Mine cost, Dec. and Jan., 189s. 3s. 7d.; balance for steam-engine, 821s. 3s.; office expenses, three months, 13s. 2s. 6d.; leaving balance in favour of mine, 213s. 17s. 7d. The estimated balance of payments over receipts before the meeting to be held in July is 559s. 11s. 1d. Captain James Waterston reported that he should recommend the adventurers to continue to drive to 21 and the 31 fm. levels. The machinery was complete, and in good order, and the monthly cost would be comparatively trifling.

At the Loveland United Mine meeting, on the 29th March (Mr. C. G. Manini in the chair), a number of letters from the agent (Capt. Trevethan) having been read, it was resolved that the mine be not closed; and a special meeting was convened for 13th April, to decide on arrangements for vigorously working the sett.

At North Wheal Leisure United meeting, on Wednesday, it was resolved that the mines be divided into 600 shares, and more active measures adopted for prosecuting the works. Capt. Richard Clymo, the agent, was present, and informed the meeting that North Leisure lode in the 6 fm. level, below adit, was producing some excellent work for tin, and the miners raising fair quantities of ore. Capt. Clymo also reported that the lodes already opened in the additional grants from the Duchy presented appearances which fully justified him in saying that he would soon be able to return a parcel of tin to the market. The tin already raised has gone far towards maintaining the costs incurred.

At Carvannall Mine meeting, on the 29th March, the accounts showed—Balance from last account, 3s. 7s. 1d.; mine cost, 175s. 11s. 5d.; dues, 77s. 2s. 10s.=230s. 18s. 2d.; calls received, 560s. 10s.; copper ore sold, 1132s. 9s. 5d.; mundie, 22. 12s. 1d.; leaving balance against adventurers, 655s. 8s. 6d. A call of 12s. 5d. per share was made. Captain John Reece reported that he had sampled, on Tuesday, 45 tons of ore, worth 7s. per ton. The samplings in future will be every two months, and the good prospect of their progressively increasing both in quantity and quality.

At the Red Dragon Mining Company meeting, on Wednesday (Mr. F. Sex in the chair), the accounts showed—Mine costs, merchants' bills, 84s. 1d.; balance at bankers, 22. 12s. 6d.=2

At the Australian Freehold Gold Mining Company meeting, on Tuesday [Mr. Ronald in the chair], a resolution was passed directing the committee of management to take the necessary steps for winding-up the company, and realising and dividing, *pro rata*, amongst the adventurers the remaining property in hand. The number of registered shares, the holders voting in their own right for the resolution, were 15,000; against it, Mr. A. W. Clarke, 355—majority, 15,655. The proceedings, which are fully detailed in another column, terminated with a vote of thanks to the chairman and committee of management.

La Fortuna Mining Company have advices dated Linares, March 26:—“The men have not yet completed the cutting in the shaft, preparatory to driving under the third level at Canada Incaos, and it will still occupy some days, as the ground is hard. We have cleared the third level west for nearly 50 fms. west of the point where Addis's shaft will communicate, and are still continuing this work, but for most of its length, but from the ground about it being hard, it was, no doubt, left by the old parties, the date of whose researches in this part is unknown to us. We shall be able by and bye to take away some of the ground to advantage. In the second level, west of Addis's shaft, we are clearing through a run, which we expect will soon be completed, when we shall continue our clearing in this direction, with the immediate objects of communicating O'Shea's shaft, which is now down to this level, and of reaching the western end as quickly as possible. At O'Shea's shaft, we are cutting a plat preparatory to sinking under the second level. Taylor's shaft is being proceeded with satisfactorily. At Los Salidos, the masons have begun to build the boiler-house; the last week's bad weather has hindered their work both in this as well as in roofing the engine-house. The same cause prevents the departure of the boat to Sevilla. The slag smelting has also been interrupted.”

The Pontigbaud Mining Company have received a report from Captain Rickard, from which the following is an extract:—“Rosier: The rise against St. Peter's shaft is now under the main lode, but is bespangled with ore throughout, and all the stuff broken in it is saving work. The 20 metre level, north of Anna's shaft, is still looking well, and yielding 1 ton of ore per fm. There is no change in the 20 metre level south. The adit level south of St. Peter's shaft is still good, and turning out 3 tons of rich ore per fm. The same level south is being driven under the lode at present, to get it away from the shaft, the lode being hard at that place, will be broken to a better advantage by and bye. We are driving a short cross-cut through the lode in the shallow, or old adit, about 20 metres south of St. Peter's shaft, and find the lode there large and grey as far as seen (2 metres); this looks well for the deep adit south. The lode in the 60, north of St. Joseph's shaft, has a very kindly appearance, and producing a little saving work. The winze in the bottom of the 60, south of the Bide, is still looking well, and turning out 2 tons of ore per fm. We have now working in Rosier three stopes and ten tribute pitches, which are turning out well, and will greatly assist us while the water is in the bottom level. We have now working, in the lares, 94 girls, and 47 men and boys—total 141, and are getting on better in that department.—Mioche: We have finished in the adit level around Taylor's engine-shaft, and taken up the surface water, and shall begin sinking again next week. The cross-cut men will now begin to cut through the No. 6 lode, and drive on the adit south. The men in the adit north are now cutting through the western part of the No. 6 lode, they have cut into it about 4 ft., and find it very for that width, and still looking well in end of cross-cut.—Barboretz: This rise in back of the adit level, in the mountain Bront, is nearly holed to surface, and still continues to produce some rich lead ore. This piece of ground will pay well for stoking, and we intend to begin working it when the rise is finished.”

The Liberty Mining Company have advices from their resident director, dated Vaucluse Mine, Wilderness, Virginia, March 19, of which the following is an extract:—“The mail on the 17th inst. brought me your letter of the 24th Feb. As to the erection of the new stamps, of which you write so urgently, I am progressing with them as fast as can be done; the weather has stopped us considerably, and if it clears up the shaft will be raised this week. When we can keep at it till nine p.m., and I sincerely hope they will be working away by the middle of April, but being dependent partly on the weather, and partly on other people, I do not feel justified in making promises. You may, however, depend on it that when the 42 head stamps are running we shall pay a good honest dividend, and keep it up. I will send you copies of such plans and sections as you have not already had, with the accounts, at the end of the month. With respect to the supply of ore, that now in the 60 and 80 ft. levels only will keep the 42-head stamps running day and night for years, independent of which, at Riddell shaft, I have 340 ft., 8 ft. wide, say 50 ft. backs, upwards of 3000 tons; at the north whim-shaft, north drift, opened 40 ft. wide, 300 ft. long, say 50 ft. of backs, 20,000 tons; 50 ft. more in width on east side not yet touched, centre shaft full of ore, and south which contains many thousand tons.”

The Fort Bowens Gold and Silver Mining Company have advices from their superintendent (Mr. Ram), dated Fort Bowens Mine, March 8, of which the following is an extract:—“I am glad to inform you that I have received a letter from Mr. Cowan, dated the 2d inst., advising me that the Young Marquis arrived at Calan on the 23d Feb., that she had discharged the goods she had for that place, and would immediately take the goods and mules on board, which he (Mr. Cowan) had purchased for me, and proceed on the 5th inst. for Escribanos. I am momentarily looking out for her arrival. In respect to the return cargo, I will report to you by the next mail; meanwhile, I will spare no exertions to accomplish the instructions of the directors. At present we are occupied in preparing the road for the railway, sinking a shaft on the Morgan vein, making a water dam for the use of the washing apparatus, and building an assay-office at the mine, which I have removed from the Boca del Belen. The dwelling houses are all completed, and every one is lodged comfortably at the mine; and as great discipline is kept up here, and all spirits prohibited, neither doctor nor hospital are required here.”

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NOTICES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

"Much inconvenience having arisen in consequence of several of the Numbers during the past year being out of print, we recommend that the Journal should be regularly filed on receipt; it then forms an accumulating useful work of reference.

VENTILATION OF COAL MINES.—SIR: The short notices in your two last Journals convey a very imperfect and somewhat erroneous impression of a model at the Pantheon, London, intended to illustrate Lee's patent mode of ventilating mines. Experiments on an extended scale are, I believe, now in progress, and their result will doubtless convince your correspondent, "N. R. Y.", that no piracy has been perpetrated on his invention. Should Mr. Lee's experiments prove successful, it will be his interest, as well as his duty, to put you in full possession of all particulars, to enable you to lay before the mining world facts bearing on a question of such vital interest and importance.—WILLIAM JONES: Wrexham, April 3.

SIR.—Referring to your leading article of last week, I observe that you mention my name as "the manager of the Dowlais Ironworks," permit me to inform you that my post at the time in question was that of resident engineer; but I am no longer connected in any way with those works.—R. DAVISON: Mark-lane, April 4.

SOUTH CORK MINE.—SIR: Permit me, through your Journal, to ask Mr. St. Pierre Foley why the reports are not published in the *Mining Journal*, as before. At the last meeting, the chairman said that at "the meeting in March he should have such a favourable report to present to the shareholders as would doubtless draw a larger attendance than was then assembled." No meeting, however, was held in March, and an explanation is, therefore, required. According to Capt. Treweeke, the mine is in an improving state, and if the information received from him is used for the purpose of purchasing shares at the present price of about £s. 6d., which is not a per centage on their value (if we are to judge by Capt. Treweeke's last report), it is most discreditible to all connected with the management. I feel sure that Mr. St. Pierre Foley would not join in such a system; and I hope that some of your correspondents may furnish me with information as to the real prospects of the mine. Perhaps this now neglected mine may yet rival the Wicklow Copper and the Mining Company of Ireland.—A SHAREHOLDER: April 4.

"A Subscriber" (Aberystwyth).—The practice of employing masons and carpenters as mine agents is deeply to be reprehended; there are numberless competent men who would be willing to undertake such situations. Great ignorance, no doubt, prevails, and the method of management of mines in Cardiganshire, if correct, shows that the system is bad; it would be as well that some large and influential shareholder should be communicated with. The exposure in one mine would lead to a reform in the others. The communication, though we have no wish to doubt its accuracy, contains matter that is libellous, and thus cannot appear in our columns.

GREAT HEWAS CONSOLS.—SIR: I have reason to fear that the committee are not working so harmoniously as they might. It would, indeed, be a source of regret that so excellent an undertaking should be driven into difficulties by inefficient management. I am told the calls are being well paid, and I do hope that close application and honest intentions will not be wanting in those appointed to the management. If difficulties exist, call a special meeting, and get them removed, but do not sacrifice the concern by an apathetic—"I would act differently if I could."—ONE INTERESTED: Cornhill, April 5.

"MIDER" (Carmarthen).—Nitre is employed in medicine, the arts, and in metallurgy, for the purpose of assisting the process of oxidizing and calcining; but its principal, if not its chief use, is in the manufacture of gunpowder, for which it is imported from Egypt is most esteemed, as it contains the least calcareous matter. Gunpowder in general consists of seventy-six parts of nitre, nine of sulphur, and fifteen of light charcoal.

WEST CARADON.—SIR: It is not correct that Captain Dunstan promised at each bi-monthly meeting dividends of 10%, per share; but at the last meeting such was the good feeling displayed towards Capt. Dunstan, that not only was a vote of thanks unanimously given to him, but every shareholder present subscribed towards a small testimonial, in appreciation of the talent displayed by him in the management of the mine.—ONE WHO LIKES FAIR PLAY.

KINSETHAL MINING COMPANY.—"One in the Dark."—This company appears to be in rather a singular position. The Deed of Settlement requires that a certain number of shareholders shall be present to constitute a meeting for the dispatch of business, and it so happens that the whole of the shares are held by so few, that if they all attended they are insufficient for that purpose. We will endeavour to obtain some particulars of the present condition of the company next week.

NATIVE LEAD.—MINING IN GALWAY.—SIR: I see in your last Journal a notice of a small piece of native lead having been found in the Grassington Lead Mines, in the West Riding of Yorkshire. I beg to state that such is not of rare occurrence in this county. I found a piece at a depth of 20 fms., in the Caherglassane Silver-Lead Mine, at depth of 11 fms., the weight of which was $\frac{1}{2}$ lb.; also, in two or three other mines, similar pieces of various weights. Querry, why is the finding of native lead a sign of a body of ore being near?—AGENARIA: April 4.

"Smelter" (Swansea).—A German has lately patented an invention, professing to obtain out of mastic, containing from $\frac{1}{2}$ to 1 per cent. of copper, a ton of copper, which will not cost more than 50/- in its production, and this with coal and labour at a higher rate than in England. We shall be enabled shortly to afford further particulars.

DHURODE MINE.—SIR: I regret to have occasion to again notice the misstatements, so frequently inserted in the *Mining Journal*, relative to this mine. Your correspondent, in the last Journal, under the signature of "Charles Thomas," reiterates some of those misstatements, although, as the then captain of the mine, well knowing that no drafts have ever been sent to the mine for "payment in Skibbereen." Those he refers to were drafts upon bankers in London. If the bankers in Skibbereen did not choose to give the cash for the one presented by "Tonkin," contrary to their usual practice, until first paid by the bank in London, no blame attaches to any one respecting it, but to him who now so disingenuously misrepresents the facts. In regard to the one he alludes to, for 75/-, sent to the mine in November last, I can only repeat that I deposited the bank-notes for that cheque before I obtained it.—J. C. Purser: Dhurode Mine Office, Throgmorton-street, April 5.

"A. K." (Bideford).—The letter of last week was omitted, with others, in consequence of its late receipt. The one received yesterday should also have been attended to, had it reached us at an earlier period.

TAMAR MARIA MINE.—An enquirer asks, if the flyer which Captain Hodge reported was thrown off No. 4 lode has yet come back again, and suggests that probably this may have some connection with the mysterious footprints which have lately been seen in various parts of Devonshire. We have no doubt the secretary would afford all the necessary information of the present condition of the mine, as well as its future prospects.

"A Subscriber" (London).—According to the report submitted to the meeting, it appears that in several of the ends the lode was poor, but in others it mentions that it is worth from 6/- to 7/- per fm. At boundary shaft, they have extended 15 fms. on a good lode for copper. The tribute is not looking so well as for some time past, but the present explorations justify better results for the future. From this, it will be seen that ores are being raised, though, perhaps, none have been sold. We have always urged on shareholders the necessity of either attending meetings themselves, or insisting on being represented when absent. It is to the disregard of the Cost-book System in its integrity, and the apathy shown, that so much disrepute is undeservedly thrown on mining enterprise.

GREAT DUCY MINE.—SIR: Can any of your readers tell me what the state of this mine is? Whether there is any prospect of its being able to pay its working expenses, or to declare a dividend within a reasonable time?—A.: April 3.

"C. L." (Drury-lane).—The company has long ceased to exist. The first chairman is now bankrupt-master at the Cape of Good Hope; one of the directors has been a bankrupt, and the shares are entirely valueless. The best course, probably, to be pursued would be to obtain some information from the parties of whom the shares were purchased. Legal proceedings would be, in all probability, futile, as it is questionable whether anything could be recovered from the promoters.

WHEAL CREEPER, AND ITS MANAGEMENT.—SIR: I think all the adventurers in this mine must be indebted to Mr. Cyrus Legg for his spirited conduct in exposing the late arbitrary and unwarrantable proceedings of our secretary. In connection with friends, I am somewhat largely interested in several mining undertakings, some of them conducted in Mr. Murchison's office, and in the management of which I shall henceforth (thanks to Mr. Legg) take a greater interest; but what I more particularly wish now is, to enquire why an explanation has not been rendered to the question of my friend, "B. M.," in the Journal of the 24th March,—the reason of Mr. Halliet's not signing the report? As a member of the committee, and one in whose judgment and ability many have confidence, I think that gentleman is bound to render some explanation. Perhaps Mr. Legg may not think the matter unworthy his looking into.—HENRY JUSTIN WOOLSCY: Tynehill-park, Holloway, April 5.

"G. G." (Lincoln).—The subscription is progressing favourably, and the directors have every anticipation that, previous to the meeting, the requisite sum to meet every arrangement will have been paid in. They appear of opinion that the amount so raised will be ample to test the value of the property, and meet all future contingencies.

THE BRITISH AUSTRALIAN GOLD MINING COMPANY.—SIR: It was rather unfortunate that your correspondent, "A Shareholder," was unable to attend the last meeting of this company, and thus have been prevented from falling into the errors he sent to you for publication. If your correspondent had carefully read the report, he would have found that, instead of the board being self-elected, they were unanimously chosen by a large body of shareholders, and instead of voting to themselves £100,000 a year for "doing nothing," the chairman, in answer to a question, stated that the directors received no remuneration. The report of the committee, which you inserted in *extenso*, gives a very straightforward account of the proceedings in Australia, and the fact of the shares now readily fetching £s. each in the market must prove an increased feeling of confidence in the undertaking.—ONE WHO ATTENDED THE MEETING: City, April 3.

SANITARY REFORM.—SIR: The Health of Towns Act, intended to remedy all the sanitary evils existing in our towns and villages, is very slow in effecting the good designed, owing to its voluntary clauses, and to the dilatoriness of execution, shown both by the general and local officials. Years have elapsed since the town of Redruth was placed under the operation of the Act, but up to this time there is neither sewage nor water-works, except the experimental water-works at the eastern end of the town, whereby an expense of nearly £300, has been uselessly incurred. I have been informed, for some time, that the local board declined to work, because the map was not ready; and now that the map (approved) has been delivered (by Messrs. Symons and Son, of Truro), no movement whatever is visible. The occupiers complain, I find, that they have been called upon to subscribe so much, and so long, for nothing. The town is wretchedly filthy, and the want of water is the dry season is awfully felt. Fortunately for the inhabitants, a fire is a rare event at Redruth, otherwise, the place might have been consumed ere this. And our town of Camborne is equally destitute both of sewage and water. Here is no provision against fire any more than at Redruth; the town is also, in some places, extremely filthy, and unsewered. About two years ago a sufficient number of rate-payers subscribed the requisite memorial to the general board, and a commissioner was sent to examine and report, but the report has not been sent down yet! This shows the slowness of all public bodies in their attention to local wants. A report, which might have been prepared and printed in a week, has been withheld two years! I hope that Messrs. Rodd, Darke, and Cornish, who are clerks to the local board, or committee, will spur on that board to duty, that we may have in our populous village all the benefit of a useful Act of Parliament.—V.: Camborne, April 4.

We have particularly to request that subscribers and others, in paying accounts, will send cheques or post-office orders, as postage-stamps cannot be received.

COMMERCIAL NEWSPAPER PRESS.

The following Parliamentary Return shows the number of Stamps issued to the respective Newspapers for the year 1854:

MINING JOURNAL	189,600
HERAPATH'S JOURNAL	97,500
RAILWAY TIMES	72,000
RAILWAY RECORD	17,375
RAILWAY GAZETTE	5,000
LONDON COMMERCIAL RECORD	59,000
JOURNAL OF COMMERCE	33,000
LONDON MERCANTILE JOURNAL	16,000

THE MINING JOURNAL
Railway and Commercial Gazette.

LONDON, APRIL 7, 1855.

The sales of copper ore in Cornwall, during the quarter ending 31st of March, the particulars of which we published in our last Journal, show the following results:

Date.	Av. stand.	Prod.	Price.	Tons ore.	Fine cop.	Amount.
Jan. 4	£137 11	... 6%	£5 14 6	2467	160 15	£16,564 7 0
11	139 6	... 6%	5 5 6	4278	276 13	26,781 10 6
18	137 2	... 6%	5 16 0	3584	223 5	20,749 11 0
25	138 17	... 6%	5 5 0	4582	295 15	28,466 1 6
Feb. 1	142 3	... 6%	5 18 0	3769	228 10	22,116 0 6
8	139 4	... 6%	6 15 0	4469	304 11	30,105 17 6
15	141 17	... 6	5 14 0	4808	287 4	27,520 11 6
Mar. 1	115 0	... 5%	5 11 6	3173	182 1	17,676 10 6
8	139 6	... 7 1/2	7 7 6	2443	177 4	17,962 10 0
15	141 16	... 6 1/2	6 6 6	4602	291 13	29,412 18 6
22	142 17	... 6 1/2	6 4 0	3662	230 1	22,701 12 0
29	141 13	... 6 1/2	6 16 6	3953	266 19	26,947 12 6
Total for the quarter				45,850	2933 11	£267,005 3 0
For the quarter ending December, 1854				49,116	3150 17	£314,438 15 0
Ditto September, 1854.				45,728	3062 6	292,185 19 6
Ditto June, 1854				46,811	2953 3	291,866 15 6
Produce for the year				187,535	12,041 17	£1,185,586 16 0
Showing a quarterly average				46,884	3,010 9	296,395 4 0
Corresponding quarter, March, 1854				45,418	2,855 5	294,353 16 0

The quarter just terminated, therefore, proves to be the lowest for the year, both in metal and money; and the result is the same as regards the sales at Swansea. The price of the metal remains in *status quo*; in fact, we never remember it to have been so stationary, nor do we see anything "looming in the distance" likely to cause a retrograde movement; on the contrary, there may be an advance, for some of the great mines are falling off in their produce. Still there are important discoveries in others, that, if they continue, may tend to keep the smelters employed to the usual extent—among these we are glad to notice United Mines, West Damsel, and the Old Consolidated. We need not further particularise, our readers should do this for themselves, by comparing our quarterly returns one with another; and if they compare the produce from either, or all the mines for the last with the preceding quarters, they may form their own opinion.

Labour and materials are somewhat cheaper than of late. Many of the mushroom mines have, fortunately, been abandoned; the list of bankrupts, insolvents, and *non est* speculators, have much increased in the last quarter, as was to be expected; and when the legitimate mining hemisphere has been duly purged of such unwholesome encumbrances (as it is likely soon to be), a better state of affairs must inevitably take place.

Mr. HERBERT MACKWORTH's elaborate paper, read at the Society of Arts on Wednesday evening, in "The Diseases of Miners," is entitled, as well from the importance of the subject as from the official position, scientific character, and practical experience of its author, to very marked attention. In taking up this branch of the pathological investigation, set in motion by the council of that institution, a sketch of the condition of those whose toil is in the hidden places of the earth, was, of course, a necessary preliminary to the suggestion of improvements for ameliorating the physical condition of the miner. Those who had associated much with miners, or employed considerable numbers of the various classes under which they fall—coal, iron, copper, tin, and lead miners—could not fail to be struck with their appearance and general physical characteristics, as different from those of other classes of workmen inhabiting the same localities. It is, at the same time, remarkable, and much to be regretted, that this large population, numbering by the last census 296,461, following peculiar and interesting occupation, had not attracted, by any means to the same degree, the attention of medical writers in Great Britain as on the Continent. Their social importance may be inferred from the following classification of their numbers, and the produce of their labour in 1851, since which period both have been progressively advancing:

	Production in 1851 about
Coal miners	52,000,000 tons of ore
Iron miners	2,250,000 "
Lead miners	65,000 "
Copper miners	11,000 "
Tin miners	9,000 "

This population, in a great measure, exists in mines which are distinguished from the workshops of other operatives by the peculiarities of the temperature, pressure, moisture, and composition of the air, of the gases, and miasma which prevail in them, by the absence of sunlight, and by the mode of lighting, quite as much as the motions and working positions of the men differ from those belonging to any other occupation. In the deeper parts of his operations, the miner is liable to be stopped or overwhelmed by water or carbonic acid; in the higher parts he may be suffocated or destroyed by irrespirable and explosive gases; and if he enters but a very short distance beyond the supplying current of atmospheric air, the oxygen rapidly falls below the proportion necessary to support life. The effect on the lives and health of miners, by having to ascend many hundred yards of almost perpendicular ladders at the end of the day's work, has been even found very serious; his heart beating as if ready to burst, his whole frame bedewed with sweat, and his strength ready to pass from the extreme of feverish excitement into the opposite state of perilous exhaustion. "The pulse," according to the high medical authority of Dr. CARLYON, a member of the Royal Cornwall Polytechnic Society, "is at this time on an average double as quick as in the natural state, and the respiration at least quickened in the same proportion." The mischief done to the vital functions, to the muscles and the lungs, is still further aggravated by the want of ventilation in many ladder shafts, and in others by their being made to serve as cast-iron shafts—that is, to bring the air out of the mine, loaded with all the impurities collected in its course. Mr. MACKWORTH assured

which attended their progress. Mr. MACKWORTH deserves well of the country for directing attention to the subject; and if the necessity of a sanitary measure is to be the first index to legislation, then mines undoubtedly are the first places in respect of which it ought to begin. While he admitted that it was painful to him to form so low an estimate of this division of pathological progress, or to give the palm in any respect to other nations, we had a duty to perform to other generations as well as to our own, and more social good might be effected by looking into our deficiencies, than in counting up our triumphs.

Although the refuse produce of smelting furnaces, in the shape of slag, has long been applied to building and other uses in this country, it cannot be said to have yet acquired a commercial importance. The introduction into England, on an extensive scale, of a new manufacture, which promises to convert a substance hitherto considered comparatively worthless to purposes of great practical utility, will necessarily form an era in the progressive industrial history of the country. Fully impressed with its value and importance, we devoted some of our space, in our last Journal, to the paper read by Dr. SMITH, of Philadelphia (U.S.), "On the Utilisation of the Molten Mineral Products of Smelting Furnaces." In the interesting discussion which followed the reading of that paper, its learned author, in compliance with the general expressed wishes of the meeting, entered into explanations of the process by which he proposed to effect the economical utilisation of slag. The manufacture necessarily called into requisition many applications, combinations, and modifications of machinery for the various processes of casting, rolling, pressing, annealing, grinding, and polishing, the details of which could not, of course, be fully illustrated; but the main features of the plan adopted consisted in the use of pure slag in its most favourable molten condition. It was necessary to protect the slag from all admixture of foreign ingredients, carefully refining it, so as to secure a uniform homogeneous product; it was not run directly out of the smelting furnace into moulds, inasmuch as that system rendered the material unfit for adaptation to the production of articles of commercial value. The preferable mode was to work the slag out of a chamber in connection with the furnace hearth, in which chamber the slag was allowed to accumulate for use; or if this arrangement was attended with local inconvenience, the slag was withdrawn through covered conduits from the smelting furnace into a wagon, or car, or large ladle. It was then refined by sub-sidation, and then run into moulds from orifices made in the side of the receiver at different elevations, for the slag received from the bottom was found to be more dense and valuable than that from the top. Its improved condition was caused in part by pressure, in part by the separation of matters in mechanical combination, and in part by the escape of uncombined gas. In making the more valuable classes of manufactured articles, a reverberatory furnace was substituted for that receiver, or the receiver was itself so constructed as to allow of the elevation, or uniform maintenance of the heat of the slag while it was being refined and coloured. Different modifications of furnaces were required for different forms, sizes, and qualities of the manufactured material; those for annealing could be located near the smelting furnace, or at any desirable distance from it, not, however, to exceed 300 yards; but the grinding and polishing processes also required special adaptation of machinery. The re-smelting of the slag would not be economical, but for certain classes of ware broken fragments of cold slag were fused or cemented together by means of the application of hot or molten slag; and bricks, blocks, and various other foreign substances, made of clay, ironstone, &c., could be coated or enamelled with fluid slag.

Mr. CAMERON, in adding the testimony of his experience of the invention for the last 12 months, stated that on the arrival of Dr. SMITH from America, through the kindness of the proprietors of the Dowlais Iron-Works, he had been himself enabled to erect an oven, and to make several very beautiful samples, fully bearing out all that had been represented. He afterwards erected annealing ovens in France and elsewhere, to test the different slags, and although his experiments were made more to ascertain the value of the invention than to produce perfect articles, they were invariably attended with the same successful results. Mr. CAMERON also explained that the annealing ovens used by him were not retort ovens, which were absolutely required to produce a perfect and uniform material, and the result was that the heat, playing unequally on the ware, caused one piece to be thoroughly devitrified, while another piece in which the heat had not been so great was in a vitrified state. Mr. DAVISON, the then resident engineer of the Dowlais Works, fully confirmed the statements of Mr. CAMERON, and mentioned that one of his sons, a boy of 15 years of age, then present, had himself produced some of the specimens submitted to the meeting. In the operation the slag was simply poured into rings, or moulds, of any form, placed on a heated iron plate, and when so far "set" as to admit of its removal, it was immediately transferred to the annealing oven, where after two or three hours regulation of the heat, on which all depended, every aperture was closed, and the oven, with its contents, allowed to cool down to the temperature of the surrounding atmosphere. The slag itself, as at present run from the furnace, was not only useless, but also costs the ironmasters from 9d. to 1s. per ton, and often much more, in its removal; it was not too much to say that 150,000t, besides, the material itself, was annually thrown away in Great Britain. Common paving-tiles, and the like, made of annealed slag, 1 in. to 1½ in. in thickness, without entering into the question of profit, might be delivered in London at a sum varying from 1d. to 2½d. per superficial foot; but with regard to the polished article, it was difficult to estimate its price, as some of it was so beautiful as to exceed the finest marble. Mr. DAVISON concluded by declaring that he had formed a high opinion of the subject some six or eight months since, when the experiments were proceeding at Dowlais, and that high opinion had continued to the present time unabated. Prof. WILSON fully coincided in the importance of the subject, the enormous masses of the material at hand, and the little cost at which it could be worked, deserved the attention of the ironmasters, and of scientific men; and the excellent paper of Dr. SMITH would, he had no doubt, tend materially to aid in the establishment of what he hoped he might be able to term a new industry.

We have above premised that the use of slag for certain purposes is not a novelty, even in these islands. During the discussion Mr. NEAMPTON stated that in 1846 or 1847 he had been called on professionally to advise upon making stone out of the slag of iron furnaces, and he observed that he undertook a long series of experiments, some of them at the iron-works of St. Etienne, in France. He erected an apparatus upon his own premises, and operated upon slags from all parts of England and Scotland, and also from Wales. The result of these experiments was a patent taken out about the above period, in which the process was very simply described; it consisted in moulding the slags on iron plates, and then annealing them. A large quantity of paving-slabs were accordingly made, some of which were laid down in the Place de la Bourse, in Paris, where he believed that they remained to this date. A question having been raised with regard to the hardness of the material so prepared, a report was procured from the Prefect of the Seine, which showed the resistance of this article to crushing power. A number of small cubes, 2½ in. square of granite and other materials, were submitted to pressure, together with similar cubes of this lava, and the comparative resistance to crushing power of the various substances tested was given as follows, in kilogrammes:—1. Great rock of the plain of Paris was crushed with a weight of 4125.—2. The lava of Bagneux with 7238.—3. The granite of St. Honorine with 7498.—4. Granite of Flaimainville with 8705.—5. Black marble of Italy with 10,696.—6. The artificial lava with 17,280, equal to nearly 12½ tons. Mr. CHARLES MAX referred to and produced specimens of an analogous substance, manufactured by Messrs. CHANCE, of Birmingham, from the Rowley rag, or basaltic rock of Dudley, apparently similar, but possibly a little more homogeneous in its composition. From this substance there had been produced castings of corbels and quoins for buildings and various other articles, which by annealing returned to the basaltic state, or by rolling remained vitreous, like glass; and Mr. MAX thought that from being more homogeneous than slag, it would be found a better article, and nearly as cheap. Mr. AUSTIN observed, in reference to the manufacture of Messrs. CHANCE, that as the basalt had to be dug from the earth and brought from the strata, he thought it would be found too expensive to compete with the production direct from the slag. Dr. NOAD observed, that when the slag was allowed to cool gradually, and in large masses, fine crystals were found lining cavities in the interior of the blocks, and these crystals had a composition which placed them amongst the anorthite, or pyrope class of minerals. When cooled rapidly the surface of the slag became vitreous and extremely brittle, but when this glassy coating was removed the slag underneath was as hard and as firm as a native rock; that it would stand weather, was proved by walls built of it having remained sound and firm for many years. Mr. BEARD vouches for the durability of the slag, for

as manufactured by himself, and used for the coping of walls, and in some cases for ornamental purposes, in the town in which he resided (Taunton), it had stood for 40 years, and the large pieces of coping were as good as on the first day.

Dr. SMITH begged to disclaim the idea that there was anything novel in the working of slag by simply running it from the smelting-furnace in its crude state, for that had been done in different countries for centuries past. The novelty consisted in the adaptation of slag by refining it to the production of articles of commercial value, for unless refined and carefully separated from all foreign ingredients, it could not be properly annealed, or profitably manufactured. Slag had not, he believed, been thus utilized either in France or any other country, except in accordance with this process, which he had secured in Great Britain, France, Belgium, America, Sweden, Austria, and other countries, by several patents, comprised in claims and specifications too numerous to be repeated. In conclusion, he referred to the samples in a variety of forms before the meeting, which he had been favoured with permission to make from the slag of the Dowlais and Ebbw Vale Iron-works, in Wales, and which showed that those furnaces yielded slag, as to liquidity, colour, and in other respects, of a very superior quality.

Objections will probably be made by geologists to the statement that the prepared slag presents the appearance and possesses the qualities of stone, on the assumption that they are both surely and essentially vitreous. We have, however, ourselves carefully examined the specimens; we observed in them the two distinct properties, and we are assured that both are the positive results of different degrees of heat applied in the manufacture. The vitreous appearance can, in other words, be converted into that of stone, or the substance, as Dr. SMITH termed it, devitrified by the application and regulation of the heat.

It has frequently been our duty, in the interest of the public, to hold up to reprobation the conduct of the managers of various gold mining companies, both Australian and Californian, who appeared to act for their own benefit alone, without consideration for that of the unfortunate shareholders. We have, however, a more pleasing task upon the present occasion, in calling the attention of our readers to the report of the meeting of the AGUA FRIA GOLD MINING COMPANY, which appeared in our Journal of last week.

A full and explicit statement of accounts was submitted to the meeting, which presented several remarkable features. The whole expenditure of the mine at Gold Hill, including not only the ordinary mine cost, but the outlay for various extra works mentioned in the report which should have been borne by the capital, had it not proved insufficient, was 27,812. 8s. 1d., against which gold had been obtained to the value of 21,616. 7s. 8d. The engineer, Mr. ATTWOOD, bears the very highest character, as may be seen from the independent testimony given in another column of our impression; and from his statement as to the cost per ton of raising and reducing the quartz, there can be little doubt that were the items fairly chargeable to capital separated from the account, a profit would be shown on the small and intermittent working of the last nine months of upwards of 4000t. The expenses of management in England are very creditable. They have averaged less than 600t. a year—an amount singularly small, probably smaller than that of any other company relatively to the capital subscribed. The directors have not received any remuneration for their services, and refuse to do so until the mine shows a profit. Yet, with a courage and liberality rarely displayed by directors in similar circumstances, these gentlemen have not hesitated to take on their own shoulders debts unavoidably incurred in the prosecution of the undertaking to the extent of nearly 10,000t. It was to relieve them from this burden, and furnish funds for carrying out the objects of the company to a successful issue, that the meeting empowered the directors to raise a sum of 15,000t. by the issue of debentures, bearing interest at 10 per cent. The committee appointed to confer with the directors have, we are informed, unanimously agreed as to the propriety of raising this sum, and invited the shareholders to come forward and join in doing so.

We can scarcely suppose that, disappointed as they may be with hope deferred, they will hesitate in responding to the appeal. The profits on the working for the last nine months are, as shown above, capable of paying 30 per cent. on the amount required; and by employing the mill to one-half its power merely as reduction works, in crushing quartz for other mine-owners, it appears by the directors' report that these profits may be at least doubled. It is distinctly stated, as indeed is evident, that if the money is not raised, the property must be sold. A business capable of making such returns will probably not fail in finding a purchaser, although, if sold under such circumstances, the price realised to the shareholders is as likely to prove a mere fraction of its value. But it would betray a lamentable want of discernment to allow a company, so honourably conducted as this appears to be, to collapse with such fair prospects of success, for want of an amount really insignificant when divided over so many shares. Let the shareholder come forward, one and all, to take their share of the present responsibility, and we may reasonably hope they will eventually reap the reward of their patience and enterprise.

As will be seen from the report of the meeting in another column, the directors of the MOUNT CARBON MINING COMPANY have been empowered by the shareholders to raise the necessary funds for the purpose of energetically prosecuting operations, by the issue of debenture bonds, secured by mortgage on the 8500 acre of coal lands, held in trust for the association. This, to our thinking, is a much better plan than at the present period of thrusting reserves shares on the market at a discount; and the advantages offered by the directors are such that we opine they will not be obliged to have much recourse to the public, but the bonds will be taken up by the shareholder. The capital stock of the company is reduced from 150,000 to 80,000 shares, and by this conversion a considerable advantage is derived by the proprietary.

As soon as the scrip is exchanged it is proposed that an enrolment of the shareholders should take place; many of these have objected to this, fancying that it is but another name for registration, and if they comply with this that they will be subject to the provisions of the Joint-Stock Companies Act. This is not the case; the association is working under a charter from the State of Virginia and are, consequently, not liable to English but American laws. Nor, in this instance singular, there being several companies which are working in London under charters from foreign states, and governed by the laws and customs of the countries which grant them. The utility of enrolment is, that the directors will be enabled, from time to time, to know who are their shareholders, and thus have the power of more readily communicating with them.

The great evil that has hitherto impeded the operations of the company appears to have been the limited resources they possessed for developing such an extensive and valuable property. Mr. GRIFFIN, the agent, reports that, if he had the command of money he should be able to effect much more as an instance, he cites in one of his despatches that if he had the means he could purchase a steam tug at barges for the conveyance of coals to Cincinnati at less than one-half the price they would cost for building. According to Prof. ANSTED's report a calculation of the get of 1,000,000 bushels of coals annually, he estimates the profit would be \$40,000 yearly; and it must be remembered that this account has taken a wide margin, giving 10 per cent. for loss on river, and waste at Cincinnati, making a total of waste and loss 150,000 bushels. Although it must be admitted that, in the shipment of warehousing of so friable a mineral as coal, some waste and loss must arise, yet it is idle to suppose that it can, with ordinary care, be anything approaching to the quantity estimated. At the same time, as there is an increasing demand for coals, there is every reason to suppose that the price will be materially enhanced. The improvement of the navigation of the Kanawha River will likewise decrease the cost of transport, and facilitate the bringing of the company's produce to market. It is needless for us further to remark on the prospects of the company, they having been so fully detailed in the report alluded to. An advantage offered to the bondholders is, that at any time during the six years after which period the bonds are redeemable they have the option of converting them into shares, the company at par value, while the 10,000 shares set aside are another guarantee for the due fulfilment of the contract. In less advantageous roads, companies offering a less security have raised larger amounts on debentures. The benefits offered are fully detailed in the report of the committee and, as we have before expressed, we should imagine that the proprietary will not be so blind to their own interests as to allow the public to participate in benefits which their patience and capital has earned them. It appears that a comparatively small sum of money is further required to adequately bring the property to a dividend-paying state; but order that this should be done effectively, it should be done quickly and nothing would give the general

public greater confidence in the undertaking than to perceive the shareholders were availing themselves of the advantages offered by the directors, and the best method to effect this is by lending money on their own debentures.

The COMPANY OF COPPER MINERS IN ENGLAND have held their annual Court; the trade profits for the last year have amounted to 24,504. 1s. 2d., and on this a dividend of 7½ per cent. has been declared on the preference share, and 1 per cent. on the consolidated stock. In making their report, the committee state that had it not been for the high rate of wages, stagnation of trade, and decline in prices, they would have been enabled to declare a much larger dividend.

Although it has been stated by some that the stock does not carry with its commensurate value in the market, yet when the circumstance is taken into consideration that at the period the Court increased the preference shares from 8000 to 12,000, they received applications for 5000, it shows that the proprietary have great confidence in the governing body. At the meeting a considerable discussion took place as to whether the accounts should be published or not; ultimately a balance-sheet was presented, showing a gross profit of 26,241. 9s. 11d., while the liabilities were 18,138.; of this amount only 6000t. was for trade debts, the rest being part of the purchase money, and payable over a term of six years. The propriety of the publication of accounts was much canvassed; and the directors stated that, although they had nothing to conceal from their proprietary, yet that as they were a trading company, it would be imprudent that their accounts should be published, and thereby invite competition; on the other hand, it was contended that in the case of the old company, the proprietary were informed they were in a prosperous condition, the accounts were concealed, when suddenly they were told the company was in a state of insolvency, and the property was mortgaged to the Bank of England. Although it would not be prudent in a company so constituted as the Company of Copper Miners in England to publish every item of their trade any more than private establishments, yet, as a public body, it is their bounden duty to present a balance-sheet to their proprietors: had such been the case, the probabilities are that the old association would not have been entangled in those difficulties which required an Act of Parliament to extricate it from.

We have always deprecated hasty and corner proceedings; yet, at the same time we consider that everything should be open to those interested, it may be unwise that too much publicity should be courted, more especially in a trading company, whose operations depend so much on the fluctuations of the markets. It is to be regretted that the prosperity of the association is still retarded by litigation; Mr. LORNE having, notwithstanding the award of the arbitrator, filed a bill in Chancery against the company. In this proceeding he appears to stand alone, if we are to judge from the unanimity which prevailed at the meeting, condemnatory of his proceedings. Whatever may be the nature of his claims, the Court appeared to have met them in a fair spirit, and having once referred the case to arbitration, we think both parties should stand by the award. Apart from this untoward subject, it appears that, owing to the energetic management of Mr. W. GILBERTSON, the operations at Cwm Avon have progressed satisfactorily and steadily, and the auditors' report fully bears out the value of the stock and plant. We may, therefore, assume that for a long period to come, under economical supervision and discreet management, the Governor and Company of Copper Miners in England will still occupy a prominent position among our great commercial companies.

The appearance of a second edition of Mr. MURCHISON's useful work, "British Mines Considered as a Means of Investment," furnishes us with a favourable opportunity of presenting to public view what may be termed the bright side of mining. We the more gladly avail of the occasion, from the recent too frequent unhappy recurrence of lamentable results from defective management. The favourable reception given to the work by the press and the public encouraged the author to render this edition more worthy of approval; and, in addition to the useful information which it supplies, we adopt the returns which regularly appear in our Journal, and which are brought down to the most recent period, for the purpose of treating this interesting and important subject in a popular manner.

It must at the outset be acknowledged that a mine cannot become profitable at once—that time, capital, skill, and perseverance are necessary to render it so; but although some mines may, according to circumstances, require less than others, the great error is in expecting success too soon. Great disappointment necessarily attends every failure, but we may refer to some memorable cases of mines which were either abandoned, or on the eve of being so, but which, by subsequent perseverance and spirited application of capital, were rendered profitable and prosperous. Take, for instance, the Devon Great Consols, which, when the Great Wheal Maria, was abandoned by a former company, and the shares offered at a few shillings, yet this mine has, under its new management, divided 443,392t., and the original 11 shares are now worth from 375t. to 375t. each. The usual return, published in our last week's Journal, of the copper ore sold at Cornwall ticketing, will also show that these mines have, for the quarter ending the 30th of March, 1855, produced in ore 5689 tons, which realised 36,294. 16s. The Wheal Buller, also abandoned by its former owners as valueless, has now, under an improved system, become one of the most profitable mines in Cornwall. The outlay on Wheal Buller had been 1280t.: the dividends realised, to March, 1855, 170,560t. The original 51 shares reached 550t., and are now ranging as high as 530t. per share, a dividend of 25t. per share having been paid within the past month. The same return shows that the Wheal Buller, for the same quarter, sold 2736t. tons of ore, which produced in money 14,566. 12s. 6d. West Bassett Mine was purchased, after the failure of a previous company, by the promoters of the present one for a sum of 736t.; yet 15,000t. has been already divided, and the shares, on which 10t. 5s. was originally paid, now range between 28t. and 30t. per share, representing nearly 200,000t. for the mine—a value based, we are assured, on immense reserves of ore, and a prospect of large and continuous profits. We may refer also to two other mines, which were similarly circumstanced, Hingston Down and South Tamar, both a few years since in a condition which rendered it a doubtful question whether they ought to be persevered in or abandoned. The shares in Hingston Down, for which 6s. or 8s. per share could with difficulty at one time be procured, are now, with 32t. paid upon them, selling at 10t. 10s. per share, 7650t. having been already divided, and the mine is now said to be making a profit of 1000t. per month. The shares in South Tamar, which were once at 11s. 6d., now sell for 6t., having already divided 19,125t. Many such cases might be adduced, but these are sufficient to show that there are failures in mining operations which cannot be traced or attributed to the merits of the speculation itself.

Success in mining, as in almost all other adventures, is a great measure depends on the management, and on the experience and practical ability of those to whom the superintendence is confided. Too indiscriminate a selection of mining captains has, we fear, often taken place, without sufficient regard to their previous education, or practical qualifications. In those cases in which prudent caution has been observed the value of the property has advanced in a high ratio. Take, for instance, some of the leading Cornwall and Devon mines, and the following will be found an accurate statement of the sums originally paid for their shares, of the gross amount of dividends already paid on those shares, and, in the instances not above enumerated, of their present market value. The sum of 17t. was originally paid on 1024 shares in the Devon Great Consols, and the sum of 433t. has been already realised on each share, being, as above, a sum of 443,392t. in dividends received. In the Wheal Buller, the sum of 51t. was originally paid on 256 shares: the sum of 651t. has been already received in dividends on each 51t. share, being an aggregate, as above, of 170,560t. paid in dividends. The original price of the 256 shares in Wheal Bassett was 102. 6s. each, and 622t. 10s. has been already paid in dividends on each share, making a gross amount of dividends paid of 160,360t. The return we have above referred to, in respect of the other mines, shows the sale of ore at Cornwall ticketing of this mine for the quarter ending the 30th of March, 1855, 1757 tons of ore, producing in money 13,907. 4s. 6d. On the 6000 shares of the West Bassett, 17t. 10s. was paid per share, in respect of which a sum of 2t. 10s. has been already received in dividends, making an aggregate of 15,000t. A sum of 20t. was paid upon each of the 256 shares in West Caradon: the present market price is 170t., and 265t. 5s. has been already received in dividends upon each share, making an aggregate of 67,904t. in dividends. In South Wheal Frances, a sum of 37t. 17s. 6d. has been paid on 248 shares; while the present price per share is 355t., and a sum of 276t. 5s. has been received in dividends, making an aggregate of 61,610t. for dividends paid. The South Caradon is divided into 256 shares, on each of which a sum of 2t. 10s. has been paid, now worth 310t.; and on this original investment a sum of 358t. has been al-

* By J. H. MURCHISON, F.G.S. London: Mining Journal Office, 26, Fleet-street.

ready paid in dividends, making an aggregate in dividends received of £1,648. The original shares in the Carn Brea were 15s.; they now produce 8s., on each of which dividends have been paid of 22s. 10s., making an aggregate in dividends of £23,600. On the 6000 shares of the North Wheal Bassett (Illogan), nothing whatever would appear to have been paid; each share, however, is now worth 19s., while a sum of 4s. 1s. has been received in dividends on each share, making an aggregate of £4,300. already received in dividends. On the 180 shares in the Levant Mine, 2s. 10s. has been paid on each share, the present price is 100s. per share, and no less than £1440. received in dividends, making an aggregate of dividends received of £178,640.

We have here stated quite sufficient of the mines of Cornwall and Devon, and we may turn for awhile to others. On each of the 20 shares of the Laxey Company, in the Isle of Man, a sum of 100s. had been paid: each share is now worth 1000s., and 1300s. has been already paid in dividends: a dividend of 50s. was paid on each share in February last; and thus, on a subscribed capital of 2000s., 26,000s. has been already received in dividends. A sum of 18s. 15s. has been already paid on each of the 400 shares of the Lisburn Lead Mines, Cardiganshire: that share now sells for 19s., and 21s. 15s. has been received in dividends on each share, making an aggregate of dividends received of 87,500s. Cornwall and Wales are, however, not singular; for we have repeatedly directed attention to the prosperous results of good management in the cases of the Mining Company, and Wicklow Copper Mines, in Ireland.

When we turn from the bright side of the picture, we can trace ill-success in many instances to defective management, and the injudicious selection of parties to whose control the properties were confided. Mr. Murchison very justly observes, that there is at present too indiscriminate an appointment of mining captains, without any means of judging of the qualifications of a large proportion of them. We also fully concur in the complaint, that the want of support which British mines meet with is the chief cause of the losses incurred in them. The insufficiency of capital, and the want of punctuality in the payment of calls, lead to further mischief, for they prevent the spirited and economical carrying on of the works of progressive mines, compel companies to take credit from merchants for supplies, necessarily tending to the payment of higher prices. We sincerely hope that in the long-promised measure for limiting liability in joint-stock associations, those formed for the purpose of conducting legitimate mining operations will not be forgotten.

This notice, necessarily brief and limited, fully sustains the position from which we started—that success in mining, as in every other branch of trade, and as also in war, is the result of good administration, proper men and a proper system; the judicious enquiry, therefore, for parties anxious to invest in mining adventures, is to ascertain, to whose hands the management has been confided.

THE IRON AND METAL TRADES OF SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT IN BIRMINGHAM.]

APRIL 5.—All those who have to write now upon the iron trade of South Staffordshire are at their wits end for a new fact. There is nothing original to be had; all is surmise and speculation. We have not, as was gloomily anticipated by some, arrived at any terrible crisis; nor have we regained our lost orders as rapidly as the more sanguine anticipated: still we are not without orders, and good ones; nor are we without hopes of a continuance of them, although certainly not to the extent we have hitherto enjoyed. The great mischief was done in so rapidly increasing our powers of production. However they might have been requisite for an extraordinary demand, they were far beyond the requirements of ordinary consumption, and hence a considerable amount of the present embarrassment arises from the stoppage of the extraordinary works set in motion during the last two years. The reduction made last week of 20s. per ton has given satisfaction amongst the hardware and other manufacturers, and it is to be hoped that remunerative prices may now be upheld. Nearly all the thin coal men have resumed work, but there are many of the thick coal men, whose notices for reduction of 1s. per day expired on Friday last, who have not resumed work, nor will they until completely beaten out, and they can no longer resist. Strong fears having been entertained that they would play off the same insane game of violence by which a portion of the district was disgraced a fortnight ago, the magistrates have taken every possible precaution for the preservation of the peace. Special constables have been sworn in in the neighbourhood of Dudley and Brierley-hill. The yeomanry cavalry are also under orders to be in readiness in the event of their services being required. It is, however, to be hoped that their services will not be needed, and that the men may be induced to return to their pits. The quarterly meetings fixed for next week are looked forward to with considerable interest, although it is highly probable they will pass over, as all the others have done for the last half century; some may require a little more time, and others throw down their checks, as usual, regardless of it. Although there may be a good deal of underselling going on, notwithstanding the resolution of the preliminary meeting, still it is generally understood that, unless some extraordinary and unforeseen circumstances shall occur between now and the meetings, the large houses will not abandon the resolution, but endeavour, as they ought to do, to maintain something like a fixed remunerative price. The wages question being now settled, underselling will find its level. There can be no further reduction of wages to enable needy makers to sell at ruinous prices, and those who do sell at figures materially under the prices fixed by the trade, must do so at the expense of those who will not be insensible to the probable consequences of such a system of underselling. The orders from America, by the latest arrivals, continue to show an increased restoration of trade and confidence in the United States; although they are not as numerous as could be desired, they are nevertheless valuable, and if continued up to, and throughout, the quarterly meetings cannot fail to exercise a beneficial influence in upholding the market.

In the Coal Trade the stocks are exceedingly low at the wharfs, &c., and unless the colliers speedily resume work, there will be considerable difficulty in finding sufficient fuel for carrying on the large works of the district. The Canock Chase Mines are reported as yielding to an extent even far beyond what was anticipated, and the quantity of coal sent away from them daily by the South Staffordshire line for distant markets is very great.

The principal feature in the heavy Manufacturing Department is the manufacture of marine-boilers and general military and naval stores. At Smethwick Works, West Bromwich, and others, they have in course of execution orders for boilers, cables, chains, &c., to a very considerable extent, and shot and shells are also weekly leaving here in great quantities. In the hollow iron trade the demand is dull and prices low.

The Lock and Hinge Trade of Darlaston are also inactive, and circulars have lately been issued announcing a reduction upon these articles.

The general Factoring Trade of Wolverhampton has also undergone a somewhat unfavourable change, the general amount of business now being comparatively limited.

The general Hardware Trade of Birmingham is reported rather buoyant during the past week, with steady prices. There are various trades, however, suffering very considerably from depression, such as the Fancy Jewellery, Pearl Button, and light trades of that description.

The Copper and Tin Trades remain as before, without any scarcity of the article or diminution of price.

In connection with the public meetings, in which we are locally interested, I may notice the bi-monthly meeting of the Rhedol United Mining Company held to-day, at their offices in this town, at which proprietors representing three-fourths of the shares were present, Mr. George Spilsbury in the chair. The account showed a balance of 1207. 16s. 4d. in favour of the mine. A call of 1s. per share was rendered necessary by the severe weather having occasioned more than eight weeks delay in dressing ores. The report was most satisfactory, and informed the shareholders the wheel was actually at work, and that both it and the crushers were performing well, having already crushed much ore of an excellent quality, and the supplies from the levels were daily increasing. On the large stock already to surface 20 dressers of ore are now engaged, in addition to all the other labourers. Operations underground, in Nantglas level, promise great and profitable results, the ore being more solid and massive as they descend. In Rhurigga a valuable discovery has been made by clearing out an old pit, in which a large lode was found, superior in quality to any previously obtained. The blende can be stopped with great ease, in immense quantities, and prices very remunerative have been offered by several of the smelting companies.

The freight of the West India mail packet *Tyne*, which arrived at Southampton on Wednesday, included specie to the amount of £2,716,738 (or say £60,000), the largest quantity hitherto brought to that port in one ship.

THE IRON TRADE.

PRICES CURRENT OF BRITISH IRON, THE MEAN OF ACTUAL SALES IN THE LONDON MARKET, FROM JANUARY 1850, TO DECEMBER

Description.	Years.	Jan.	Feb.	March.	April.	May.	June.	July.	August.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
RAILROAD IRON, f.o.b., Wales, or North-Eastern Coast of England.*	1850.	£3 7 6	£3 8 9	£3 2 6	£3 0 0	£3 0 0	£2 17 6	£2 12 6	£2 12 6	£2 12 6	£2 12 6	£2 15 0	£2 15 0
	1851.	5 1 8	5 0 0	5 1 0	5 7 6	5 0 0	5 0 0	5 0 0	5 0 0	5 0 0	5 0 0	4 18 8	4 18 8
	1852.	4 15 10	4 9 2	4 9 2	4 18 9	5 7 6	5 19 9	6 2 6	6 0 0	6 11 3	7 8 4	8 1 0	9 5 2
	1853.	9 11 8	8 17 6	8 17 6	8 10 0	8 7 6	8 10 0	8 12 6	8 12 6	8 10 0	7 17 6	8 2 0	8 2 0
	1854.	8 0 0	8 6	8 2 6	7 11 6	7 15 0	7 12 0	7 12 0	7 15 0	7 0 0	7 0 0	6 17 6	6 17 6
WELSH BAR IRON, f.o.b., Newport or Cardiff.†	1850.	5 6 8	5 6 8	5 0 0	4 13 9	4 10 0	4 11 3	4 12 6	4 11 3	4 11 3	4 12 6	4 18 0	4 18 0
	1851.	4 17 9	4 13 9	4 15 0	4 16 3	4 10 10	4 10 0	4 11 3	4 13 9	4 18 9	4 18 9	4 18 9	4 18 9
	1852.	4 8 9	4 7 6	4 7 6	4 8 9	4 13 9	4 18 9	5 2 6	5 5 0	5 17 6	6 15 4	7 10 0	8 1 0
	1853.	8 18 4	8 15 0	8 15 0	8 7 6	8 5 0	8 5 0	8 0 0	8 0 0	8 0 0	8 15 0	8 15 0	8 15 0
	1854.	8 12 6	8 10 0	8 6 1	8 1 6	8 11 6	8 12 6	8 12 6	8 6 6	8 0 0	7 9 0	7 9 0	7 9 0
SCOTCH PIG IRON, f.o.b., Glasgow.‡	1850.	2 9 0	2 9 9	2 4 6	2 2 3	2 4 6	2 5 3	2 4 0	2 4 6	2 2 6	2 3 0	2 3 6	2 3 6
	1851.	2 3 10 2	2 4 0	2 2 6	2 0 9	2 0 9	2 0 6	1 19 6	1 19 6	1 18 6	1 18 6	1 18 6	1 18 6
	1852.	1 18 0	1 17 2	1 16 0	1 16 3	1 18 2	2 0 2	2 4 9	2 4 8	2 9 8	2 16 9	2 18 0	3 8 0
	1853.	3 6 6	3 16 6	2 13 5	2 13 3	2 11 2	2 12 6	2 17 11	3 7 6	3 4 10	3 9 0	3 18 0	2 19 2
	1854.	3 15 6	3 17 0	3 17 0	4 0 0	4 7 6	4 10 0	4 2 6	4 0 4	4 1 6	3 12 6	3 6 6	3 6 6

* Average of 1st five years (1850-54), 6s. 8s. 3d.

+ Average of 2d five years (1850-54), 6s. 5s. 10d.

‡ Average of 3d five years (1850-54), 2s. 16s.

IRON AND COAL TRADES OF YORKSHIRE AND DERBYSHIRE.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT IN CHESTERFIELD.]

APRIL 5.—The iron trade is less depressed than it was some weeks ago, and the prices realised at Glasgow for Scotch pig-iron have induced an effort on the part of makers in other districts to obtain higher prices; in this, however, we think they will not succeed, as the demand does not keep pace with the supply, and the great reduction in the value of bars demands a corresponding lowering in the price of pig-iron; and as there now appears to be little probability of America purchasing rails to any extent, the consumption will be materially checked. The accounts from America are more cheering, so far as general orders are concerned; and a feeling prevails that the worst has passed over, and that the Americans are rallying from their paucity. This occasions considerable orders for Sheffield goods; and as remittances are more abundantly received, we may expect a healthy trade with the States of Canada.

We regret to find a reluctance on the part of coal owners in Yorkshire to depart from the enormous and very injuriously high prices which have recently prevailed in the coal trade. We think this impolitic, and very destructive to the best interests of the country, which a short time will abundantly prove; and, indeed, stern necessity will soon force this step upon them. The reduction of 1s. per ton upon coals, which has taken place in some districts, will afford but little relief to the ironmaster, whilst it might easily have been conceded by the coal masters upon the articles furnished to the iron trade. The quarterly meetings of the iron masters take place next week, and they are looked forward to with considerable anxiety, as we shall then have a better opportunity of judging more accurately of the prospects of the future quarter.

An association, having for its object the prevention of boiler explosions, has been formed in Manchester, and it is expected to come into operation next week. It extends its influence over the principal manufacturing towns round Manchester, and it has met with the general concurrence and approval of mill-owners upwards of 200 firms having joined it, and many others having intimated their intention to do so. A chief inspector of boilers has been appointed; two districts have already been marked out, and on Tuesday last two sub-inspectors were appointed, one for each, at a salary of 2s. per week. They are practically acquainted with steam boilers, furnaces, and engines; and a portion of their duties will be to make indicator and safety-valve calculations. In the first instance, Mr. Longridge, the chief inspector, will make tour through the districts, for the purpose of introducing himself to the members of the association, of making a brief general inspection, more particularly as regards the question of safety, and to learn the views and wishes of the members as to the extent of his supervision. He will subsequently attend at the office of the association in Manchester, every Tuesday, for the convenience of those of the members who wish to consult or communicate with him. From the excellent mechanical education which Mr. Longridge has received, his great experience in important and responsible situations, will enable him to discharge the important duties of his office with much intelligence and discretion. As this is the first association of the kind which has been formed in the great manufacturing metropolis of this nation, its movements will be watched with considerable interest. The importance of such a society is this to a manufacturing community cannot be overrated, because, next to accidents in coal mines, there have been more lives sacrificed from boiler explosions than from any other single cause. It is to be hoped, therefore, that the advantages which must accrue from a regular course of steam boiler inspection, will be such as to induce all our manufacturers to adopt the same plan. Mr. Eaton Hodgkinson, C.E., when giving evidence in the case of a recent boiler explosion at Bolton, says:—"The frequent occurrence of these accidents is attributable to various causes. The first which I shall mention arises from the too frequent wish among millowners to obtain their boilers and engines on the lowest possible terms, and the employment of men to attend them who are unfit for the office, and are unable, by ignorance and want of time, to keep them clean and attend to them properly. Another cause arises, or is increased, from the great strength attributed to wrought iron, by engineers in the most eminent." He also said that if low-pressure boilers were converted into high-pressure ones, as was sometimes done, we might expect many and frequent explosions.

Mr. Grenville L. Holderness of Hulme, Manchester, whose invention for the ventilation of collieries is said to have been favourably received by the parliamentary committee on accidents in coal mines, suggests the following plan for the ventilation of emigrant ships:—"I propose (says Mr. Holderness) that a fireplace should be constructed in the hold of the vessels amidships, and a steam-boiler of sufficient dimensions (either with or without engine). The fireplace should be so contrived that there should be no admission of air into the hold needed ventilation, direct through those tubes to the fireplace, the consequence would be that the current of air being continuous no noxious fumes could accumulate. By steam from the boiler, cooking would be readily facilitated, besides from condensed steam some aid might be had in case of scarcity of fresh water. Another addition to the above might be made. A cistern underneath, or near to the fireplace, and connected therewith, containing chalk; so that if any accidental fire should take place, by pouring sulphuric acid through a tube (that should be connected with the cistern) carbonic gas would be produced; then, by closing one of the tubes, leaving those open where the fire originated, and closing the hatchways, the fire could not possibly make progress."

We understand that a miners' lamp, embracing some novelty of construction, has recently been perfected by Mr. Adolphus Pepper, brother to J. H. Pepper, Esq., of the Polytechnic Institution. The invention is said to comprise the means for obtaining a more diffused light, in conjunction with a greater degree of safety than hitherto attainable, the lamp also being of a simple and inexpensive character. A demonstration of its qualities is shortly to be made before one of the scientific societies.

ACCIDENTS IN COAL MINES.—The following is a list compiled from the Government reports of the fatal accidents and number of lives lost in Lancashire, Cheshire, and North Wales:—

Number of Accidents.	Number of Lives Lost.	By Explosions only.	Accidents.	Lives Lost.
1851.....	135.....	181.....	in which are included	70.....
1852.....	149.....	220.....	30.....	91.....
1853.....	151.....	237.....	21.....	90.....
1854.....	178.....	209.....	26.....	129.....
	613.....	946.....		110.....

BRITISH MINES CONSIDERED AS A MEANS OF INVESTMENT.

WITH PARTICULARS OF THE PRINCIPAL DIVIDEND AND PROGRESSIVE MINES IN ENGLAND AND WALES.

SECOND EDITION, corrected and revised, with a large addition of valuable information

By J. H. MURCHISON, Esq., F.G.S., F.S.S., &c.

London : Mann Nephew, 39, Cornhill. Copies may also be obtained at Mr. Murchison's office, 117, Bishopsgate-street Within; at the Mining Journal office, 26, Fleet-street, London; and at the office of Mr. W. E. Commins, Tavistock.

REVIEWS ON THE FIRST EDITION.

Mr. Murchison's new work on British Mines is attracting a great deal of attention, and is considered a very useful publication, and calculated to considerably improve the position of home mine investments.—*Mining Journal*, Dec. 2.

A very unpretending but useful little volume, and contains much information, which cannot fail to be interesting to all connected with a most important branch of our national industry.—*Morning Herald*, City Article, Dec. 18.

Any attempt to afford reliable information in the shape of facts must be useful, and tend to make British mines take a better position among the investments of the day.—*Morning Chronicle*, City Article, Nov. 24.

Mr. Murchison has condensed much useful information respecting a field of speculation on which great ignorance prevails; and has here brought together the details most wanted on the legitimate mining undertakings at home. He gives an account, alphabetically arranged, of the principal dividend and progressive mines. We heartily concur in the hope expressed by Mr. Murchison, "that British mines may take their proper position among the investments of the day."—*Globe*, City Article, Dec. 7.

Mr. Murchison has had for some years considerable experience in the management of the business of British mines, and has devoted much attention to mining in this country, and is entitled to be heard with attention when he discourses upon a subject which is of such vast national importance as the mineral wealth we possess. The book will be found extremely valuable as a guide to all who are interested, or about to seek investments in mines; and we have elsewhere availed ourselves of some of the mining curiosities which Mr. Murchison has so skilfully brought together.—*Observer*, Dec. 24.

The author of this work is a gentleman who has for some years past had considerable experience in the management of some of the best of our progressive mines in the south of Devon and east of Cornwall; and under his auspices an immense amount of capital has been legitimately embarked in the employment of mining industry, with every prospect of ultimate success. He is, therefore, well qualified from experience to write on the subject of British mining, and has produced a work which will be exceedingly valuable to any one who desires to adventure in this important branch of our home industry. . . . And comprising all that is necessary to guide a person in a judicious outlay of his capital.—*Plymouth Journal*, Dec. 7.

The author of this little work has evidently devoted considerable attention to the subject on which it treats, and has succeeded in producing a volume replete with information valuable to those interested in mining speculations.—*Bristol Mirror*.

Those who are seeking information on mines and mining operations, with regard to money investment, will find all the instruction and guidance they need in these pages.—*Derbyshire Chronicle*.

This is a very valuable book, which all who are interested in mining ought to possess. It supplies a very great amount of information, both on the general subject, and on the history of particular mines, especially in Cornwall. It is calculated, we think, to give an impulse to legitimate mining adventures, and to prudent enterprise.

We repeat, that Mr. Murchison's volume is a well written and useful book, and we hope and expect it will be extensively sold and read.—*Cornwall Gazette*.

This work gives a very interesting account of British mines, and of their value as means of investment. It treats chiefly of copper and lead mines, and points out their immense value if properly worked.—*Glasgow Examiner*.

A very valuable work to those engaged in mining matters. It contains a great amount of important information, not to be had in an equally clear, condensed, and comprehensive form, in any other publication.—*Morning Advertiser*, City Article, Dec. 30.

The great experience Mr. Murchison has had in the management of British mines is the best guarantee the public can have of the accuracy of the work; which is indispensable to those persons who have any interest in mining.—*Derbyshire Courier*.

This is a clear, succinct, statistical, historical, and geological description of the leading mines in Great Britain, with an especial view to their eligibility as investments. The author has taken particular care to discriminate between those mines which are sound and legitimate, and those which are simply speculative in their character. He has treated the subject with great ability.—*Blackburn Standard*.

ROYAL SANTIAGO MINING COMPANY.—The Directors of this company hereby give notice, that they have this day made a CALL upon the shareholders of ONE POUND per share, to be PAID to the company's bankers on or before the 10th day of March, 1853.

By the terms of the agreement constituting the company, all shares of those proprietors who do not pay the said call of £1 per share within 30 days after the 10th of March will be absolutely forfeited.

The form to make the payment will be delivered upon application at the office, and the certificates must be lodged at the same time, to have the payment endorsed thereon. 33, Broad-street-buildings, Jan. 3, 1853.

A GUARANIA GOLD MINING COMPANY.—The Committee of Shareholders appointed at the meeting of this company on the 30th ult., having conferred with the directors, it was unanimously resolved to ISSUE DEBENTURES, being a first charge upon the property of the company, and bearing interest at the rate of 15 per cent., to an amount not exceeding £15,000, the debentures to be issued in sums of not less than £5 each. Scrip and shareholders in this company are, therefore, requested to signify to the secretary, on or before the 17th inst., what amount of such debentures they are disposed to take.

By order, WILLIAM J. VIAN, Sec.

Office, 3, Old Broad-street, London, April 3, 1853.

CORNISH STEAM-ENGINES.

Abstract from *Brown's Cornish Engine Reporter*, from 21st Feb. to 20th March:

PUMPING ENGINES.

Number reported	24
Average load per square inch on the piston, in lbs	15·2
Average number of strokes per minute	5·2
Gallons of water drawn per minute	4668
Average duty of 15 engines, being million lbs. lifted 1 ft. high by	70·1
the consumption of 1 cwt. of coals	
Actual horse-power employed per minute	1040·4
Average consumption of coals per horse-power per hour, in lbs.	3·4

ROTARY ENGINES.—WHIMS.

Number reported	17
Number of kibbles drawn	35,897
Average depth of drawing, in fms.	130·7
Average number of horse-whim kibbles drawn the average depth by consuming 1 cwt. of coals	38·9
Average duty of 10 engines, as above	17·1

STAMPS.

Number reported	5
Average number of strokes per minute	9·0
Average duty of three engines, as above	51·5
Actual horse-power employed per minute	107·3

PUMPING ENGINES DOING HIGHEST DUTY.

Par Consols, 80 in. single	Million lbs. 97·9
Fowey Consols, 80 in. single	" 96·7
Great Polgoon, 80 in. single	" 95·5
Par Consols, 72 and 36 in. Sims' combined	" 79·1
Pembroke and East Crinnis, 80 in. single	" 76·2
Pembroke and East Crinnis, 70 in. single	" 75·7
Trelawny, 60 in. single	" 73·3
Great Polgoon, 67 in. single	" 71·5

WINDING ENGINES.

Wheal Unity, 36 in. single	Million lbs. 50·2
Great Polgoon, 35 in. double	" 52·5
South Cadron, 36 in. single	" 45·9

PREVENTION OF RAILWAY ACCIDENTS.—In our Journal of the 24th of February, we called attention to several of the inventions patented by Mr. G. H. Ingall, in order to obviate that disastrous loss of life and limb which is unfortunately so frequently occurring. At that time we pointed out not only their utility, considered as a prevention of these disastrous accidents, but likewise their practical application at a comparatively trifling cost. Were directors of boards to adopt these inventions, not only would a great amount of suffering be avoided, but large sums that are now paid annually for compensation would be saved to the shareholders. Among Mr. G. H. Ingall's inventions, there is none of greater utility than the Railway Train Indicator, the merits of this we have previously described; at the London Tavern a model, showing its working, has been within the last few days exhibited, and will remain on view until Tuesday next, its working is concisely described by Mr. Eidsom, the gentleman who delivered a lecture at the Panopon on Mr. G. H. Ingall's inventions. The model is well got up, and plainly shows the practical working of the Railway Train Indicator, so that the most simple can easily understand its utility. It is to be hoped that those who are interested, not only as shareholders, but the many who are obliged to travel on these great arteries of communication will, by their influence, induce the directors of the several boards to test on a large scale, inventions which have been shown to be of such utility, and likely in their working to be so beneficial in their results, inasmuch as human life will be economized.

THE PROFESSIONAL LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY.—An interesting account of the last annual meeting will be found in another column. During the past year the number of policies effected with and issued by the company was 650, and the amount assured 263,390/-, producing an annual revenue of 7545/-, 12s. 6d. being an excess over the business of the preceding year of 43,500/-, the sum assured, and 90,170/- in the amount of annual premiums. It will be seen that the local boards of management at Melbourne, Adelaide, Sydney, Geelong, and Victoria, have already had to meet considerable results. Agencies are also in full operation at the Cape of Good Hope, Fernando, Nova Scotia, the Canada, New Brunswick, Toronto, &c. In the course of the proceedings it was very appropriately observed that the office was now, in years, but old in the amount of business, and possessed the spring and activity of youth with the solidity of manhood.

Among the Sydney contributions to the Paris Exhibition, are a statuette in gold of a gold-digger with all his implements, and a statuette in silver of an Australian of native race. The total cost of the contributions sent to the Paris Exhibition from New South Wales is 10,000/-, 4000/- of which was spent in purchasing gold specimens.

CORNWALL.—IMPORTANT SALE OF VALUABLE MINE SHARES.

M. TIPPET WILL SELL, BY PUBLIC AUCTION, at Tyack's Hotel, in Camborne, on Tuesday, the 17th day of April inst., at Four o'clock in the afternoon, in such lots as may be determined on at the time of sale, the following valuable MINE SHARES, viz.:—

THIRTEEN (200ths) SHARES IN WEST WHEAL SETON, situate in the parish of Camborne, in the county of Cornwall. This mine is paying regular dividends, and its prospects have recently very much improved.

THIRTY (179ths) SHARES IN DOLCOATH MINE, situate in the parish of Camborne aforesaid. This important mine has made large profits, and its prospects are also very good.

ONE HUNDRED AND NINETY-TWO (110ths) SHARES in the valuable mine called SOUTH WHEAL CROFTY, situate in the parish of Illogan.

For all further information, application may be made to the auctioneer, or to Messrs. SMITH and ROBERTS, solicitors, Truro.—Dated April 2, 1853.

VALUABLE COPPER MINE AND MATERIALS FOR SALE.

M. LITTLE is instructed to OFFER FOR SALE, BY PUBLIC

AUCTION, in One Lot, at Croft's Hotel, Hayle, on Wednesday, the 18th inst., at Three o'clock p.m., WHEAL CARPENTER, in the parish of Gwinear, with the WHOLE of the MATERIALS in and upon the same. The machinery consists of an ENGINE, equal to a 44 in. cylinder, 9 ft. stroke in cylinder, and 5 ft. in shaft, with boiler about 10 tons; capstan and shears; capstan-chain; balance-hob, &c.; 24 fms. of 6 in. pumps, with H-piece, plunger, &c.; 35 fms. of 9 in. pumps, with 10 in. H-piece, pole, &c.; 14 fm. of 10 in. pumps, 2 horse-whims, with chain and hobbles for ditto; miners' tools; blacksmiths' tools, bellows, anvil, &c.; dressing sheds; jiggings butches; with every other requisite for properly carrying out a copper mine.

The shaft has been sunk 45 fms. under adit, from which a large quantity of copper ore has been raised and sold; the returns lately have been about 50 tons per month.

This mine is situated in one of the best mining districts in the county, in parallel ground to the far-famed Alfred Canal, about half a mile to the south, and between the two great cross-courses.

Such an opportunity rarely offers to those who wish to invest in Cornish mines. An inventory of the machinery, materials, &c., will be found at the account-house; and the mine is open to the inspection of all who wish to examine it until the morning of the day of sale. Any further particulars may be had of the agent, on the mine; of Mr. EDWARD BUNN, Camborne; or at the offices of the auctioneer, Redruth.—Dated Mining Office, Redruth, April 3, 1853.

PRELIMINARY ANNOUNCEMENT.

IMPORTANT SALE OF ENGINE WORK, MACHINERY, TOOLS, UTENSILS, and MATERIALS, PIG IRON, BAR IRON, SHIP PLATES, SCRAP IRON, and SCRAP METAL, at the BEDLINGTON IRONWORKS, NORTHUMBERLAND.

M. GEORGE HARDCASTLE is instructed to prepare for peremptory and unreserved SALE, BY PUBLIC AUCTION, the extensive and most valuable PLANT of MOVALE MACHINERY and GENERAL STOCK IN TRADE, on the premises.

The sale will take place about the end of the present month of April, and particulars will be furnished in catalogues and further advertisements.

Information will be afforded by the auctioneer, on application at the Sunderland Sale Offices; Messrs. GRIFFITH and CROFTON, solicitors; or to Messrs. ALLISON and GILLIESON, accountants, Royal Arcade, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

London, 10a, King's Arms-yard, April 3, 1853.

PUMPING ENGINE, 70 in.—TO BE SOLD, BY AUCTION, at the Ironworks, Charlestown, Cornwall, on Wednesday, the 11th April next, at One o'clock p.m., a new 70 in. cylinder, 10 feet stroke, and 8 feet in the shaft; a 70 in. cylinder, 10 feet stroke in the cylinder, and 8 feet in the shaft; a 70 in. cylinder, 10 feet stroke, equal beam, with three wrought-iron boilers, about 12 tons in each, and furniture complete.

4 20 in. H-pieces.

4 30 in. top doorpieces.

3 15 in. top doorpieces.

1 12 in. top doorpiece.

2 18 in. 10 ft. sinking windbore.

20 in. 4 ft. flat-bottom windbore.

20 in. 6 ft. flat-bottom windbore.

19 in. 6 ft. flat-bottom windbore.

15 in. 8 ft. flat-bottom windbore.

15 in. 9 ft. flat-bottom windbore.

15 in. 9 ft. flat-bottom windbore.</

THE MINING SHARE LIST.

Shares.	Mines.	Paid.	Last Price.	Present.	Dividends per Share.	Last Paid.	Shares.	Paid.	Last Price.	Present.	Shares.	Paid.	Last Price.	Present.	
5120 Alfred Consols (copper), Phillack	£311s. 10d.	511	13s	—	21s 5 d	20 4 0—April, 1855.	512 Creegbrawse (copper), Cornwall	13s	—	—	2129 Perran Consols (Perranuthnoe)	2	1s	—	
8000 Altdorf Consols slate Quarry	2	—	1s	—	0 3 0	0 1 0—July, 1854.	1500 Crookhaven (copper), Cork	10	—	—	1200 Perran Wheal George	—	—	—	
2000 Anglesea Coal Company	7	—	7	—	0 10 0	0 2 0—Nov., 1852.	6400 Crow Hill, St. Stephen's	1s	—	—	1000 Peter Tavy & Mary Tavy (cop.)	5s	—	—	
1624 Ballawidden (tin), St. Just	11s	—	6	—	12 3 6	0 3 0—Jan., 1854.	9000 Culbert (silver-lead), Cornwall	2s	—	—	2000 Polgar & Lanarrow (cop., tin)	2s	—	—	
4000 Bat Holes, Worthen, Salop	17. 17s. 6d.	—	—	—	0 10 0	0 10 0—April, 1853.	6700 Cwm Darren (lead), Cardigansh.	1s	—	—	5000 Poltimore (cop., gold), Devon	1	—	—	
4000 Bedford United (copper), Tavistock	21. 6s. 8d.	—	—	—	6 17 6	0 3 0—Feb., 1853.	10000 Cwm Erfin (lead), Cardigansh.	—	—	—	2400 Poldark United (tin), Wendron	1	—	—	
5000 Black Craig (lead), Kirkcudbrightshire	5	—	5	—	0 5 0	0 2 6—July, 1853.	10000 Cwm Erfin (lead), Cardigansh.	—	—	—	6400 Prideaux Wood, Luxulyan	1s	—	—	
230 Bodlack (tin, copper), St. Just	91s	230	—	—	22s 3 0	10 0 0—Dec., 1854.	14000 Darren (sil.-lead) Cardigansh.	5s	—	—	10000 Respry (copper), Lostwithiel	—	—	—	
1000 Bryntail, Llanddios, Montgomeryshire	7	—	4s	—	0 3 0	0 3 0—June, 1851.	14500 Derwent (sil.-lead), Durham	60	—	—	16000 Rhindol United Mine	—	—	—	
5000 Callington (lead, copper), Callington	7. 17s.	—	2	—	1 8 0	0 4 0—Sept., 1847.	1484 Devon & Cornwall United (cop.)	13s	—	—	12500 Rhosydol & Bachiddon (lead)	11s	—	—	
1000 Corn Bires (copper, tin), Illogan	15	—	15	—	22s 10 0	2 0 0—April, 1854.	1500 Devon and Courtenay (copper)	—	—	—	12500 Rhosydol (slate), Featinlog	—	—	—	
16000 Castle slate Quarry, Dolwyddelan	1	—	1s	—	0 1 0	0 3 0—Aug., 1854.	1500 Devon Buller Gt. Consols	12s 6d	—	—	12500 Rhosydol (slate), Featinlog	—	—	—	
256 Conford (copper), Gwennap, Cornwall	15	—	15	—	9 0 0	3 0 0—June, 1850.	1500 Devon Burras Burrs (copper)	4	—	—	10000 Rinsey United	—	—	—	
256 Condurrow (copper, tin), Camborne	20	—	100	—	55 0 0	3 0 0—Jan., 1855.	1500 Devon Great Tin Mines	—	—	—	25200 Horning (lead), Smallacombe	7s	—	—	
128 Cwmystwyth (lead), Cardigansh.	60	185	—	—	45 0 0	5 0 0—March, 1855.	1500 Devon Tin Min.	—	—	—	5000 Round Hill	21 12	1s	—	
1021 Devon Great Consols (copper), Tavistock	1	—	37s 37s	—	42s 0 0	0 0 0—Mar., 1855.	1500 Devon Tin Min.	—	—	—	5000 Round Hill	21 12	1s	—	
13000 Dhuorco (copper), Ireland	1	—	1	—	0 3 0	0 1 8—Nov., 1855.	1500 Devon Great Tin Min.	—	—	—	5000 Round Hill	21 12	1s	—	
1710 Dolcoath (copper, tin), Camborne	257s	77s	—	—	87s 3 0	0 1 8—April, 1853.	1500 Devon Great Tin Min.	—	—	—	5000 Round Hill	21 12	1s	—	
12800 Drac Wall (tin, copper), Calstock	17. 9s.	—	1	—	0 6 0	0 1 8—April, 1853.	1500 Devon Great Tin Min.	—	—	—	5000 Round Hill	21 12	1s	—	
300 East Darren (lead), Cardigansh.	82	80	—	—	8 0 0	4 0 0—Nov., 1854.	1500 Devon Great Tin Min.	—	—	—	5000 Round Hill	21 12	1s	—	
128 East Pool (tin, copper), Pool, Illogan	24s	100	—	—	22s 0 0	2 10 0—April, 1854.	1500 Devon Great Tin Min.	—	—	—	5000 Round Hill	21 12	1s	—	
128 East Wheel Margarit (tin, copper)	5s	12	—	—	0 5 0	0 5 0—Feb., 1854.	1500 Devon Great Tin Min.	—	—	—	5000 Round Hill	21 12	1s	—	
1300 Eynam Mining Company, Derbyshire	3s	26	—	—	4 13 4	0 10 0—Dec., 1854.	1500 Devon Great Tin Min.	—	—	—	5000 Round Hill	21 12	1s	—	
494 Fowey Consols (copper), Tywardreath	40	30	—	—	39s 13 0	1 10 0—Aug., 1850.	1500 Devon Great Tin Min.	—	—	—	5000 Round Hill	21 12	1s	—	
2240 Foxdale, Isle of Man	7. 10s. 6d.	20	—	—	41 7 3	1 0 0—Oct., 1854.	1500 Devon Great Tin Min.	—	—	—	5000 Round Hill	21 12	1s	—	
2240 Ditto (New Shares of 25s. each)	—	—	—	—	2 4 0	0 16 0—Oct., 1854.	1500 Devon Great Tin Min.	—	—	—	5000 Round Hill	21 12	1s	—	
4440 General Mining Co. for Ireland (cop., lead)	2s	2	—	—	1 0 8	0 3 3—June, 1853.	1500 Devon Great Tin Min.	—	—	—	5000 Round Hill	21 12	1s	—	
2000 Goginan (lead), Cardigansh., Wales	8	6	—	—	22 0 0	5 0 0—Sept., 1850.	1500 Devon Great Tin Min.	—	—	—	5000 Round Hill	21 12	1s	—	
1024 Great Crinnis (copper), St. Austell	13s	14	—	—	0 7 6	0 7 6—Dec., 1852.	1500 Devon Great Tin Min.	—	—	—	5000 Round Hill	21 12	1s	—	
13750 Great Folgoeth (tin), St. Austell	4s	—	—	—	0 1 0	0 1 0—Sept., 1852.	1500 Devon Great Tin Min.	—	—	—	5000 Round Hill	21 12	1s	—	
119 Great Work (tin), Germoe	100	200	—	—	181 10 0	5 0 0—Nov., 1854.	1500 Devon Great Tin Min.	—	—	—	5000 Round Hill	21 12	1s	—	
1024 Herdsfoot (lead), near Lakelard	8s	2s	—	—	1 15 0	0 3 0—May, 1854.	1500 Devon Great Tin Min.	—	—	—	5000 Round Hill	21 12	1s	—	
6000 Hington Down Consols (copper), Calstock	3s	10s	11	—	1 5 6	0 6 0—March, 1855.	1500 Devon Great Tin Min.	—	—	—	5000 Round Hill	21 12	1s	—	
2000 Holmbush (lead, copper), Callington	15s. 8d.	8	—	—	25 0 0	—	—	1500 Devon Great Tin Min.	—	—	—	5000 Round Hill	21 12	1s	—
2000 Holmford (copper), near Tipperary	11	—	—	—	3 5 0	0 5 0—Sept., 1852.	1500 Devon Great Tin Min.	—	—	—	5000 Round Hill	21 12	1s	—	
75 James (lead), Mold, Flintshire	3. 13s. 6d.	—	—	—	380 0 0	0 5 0—March, 1851.	1500 Devon Great Tin Min.	—	—	—	5000 Round Hill	21 12	1s	—	
2048 Kenneggy (copper), Brage	6s. 7d.	—	—	—	0 4 0	0 4 0—March, 1854.	1500 Devon Great Tin Min.	—	—	—	5000 Round Hill	21 12	1s	—	
786 Kirkcudbrightshire (lead), Kirkcudbright	9s	—	—	—	1 15 0	0 3 0—May, 1854.	1500 Devon Great Tin Min.	—	—	—	5000 Round Hill	21 12	1s	—	
2000 Lackamore (copper), Tipperary, Ireland	1	—	1%	—	0 1 0	0 1 0—July, 1853.	1500 Devon Great Tin Min.	—	—	—	5000 Round Hill	21 12	1s	—	
30 Laxey Mining Company, Isle of Man	100	1000	—	—	1300 0 0	50 0 0—Feb., 1852.	1500 Devon Great Tin Min.	—	—	—	5000 Round Hill	21 12	1s	—	
5000 Lewis (tin, copper, St. Eth)	37. 8s.	1	—	—	0 2 0	0 2 0—Aug., 1852.	1500 Devon Great Tin Min.	—	—	—	5000 Round Hill	21 12	1s	—	
1600 Lewish (copper, tin), St. Just	2s	—	100	—	1044 0 0	3 0 0—Feb., 1851.	1500 Devon Great Tin Min.	—	—	—	5000 Round Hill	21 12	1s	—	
4000 Lisburn (lead), Cardigansh., Wales	18s	19s	—	—	218 15 0	2 10 0—Dec., 1852.	1500 Devon Great Tin Min.	—	—	—	5000 Round Hill	21 12	1s	—	
320 Machne Slate and Slab Company	23	29	—	—	2 10 0	1 5 0—Dec., 1853.	1500 Devon Great Tin Min.	—	—	—	5000 Round Hill	21 12	1s	—	
160 Ditto (New Shares)	18s	23s	2 2 3%	—	2 12 6	0 7 6—April, 1854.	1500 Devon Great Tin Min.	—	—	—	5000 Round Hill	21 12	1s	—	
6000 Markle Valley (copper), Caradon	41. 10s. 6d.	—	—	—	0 2 6	0 2 6—May, 1853.	1500 Devon Great Tin Min.	—	—	—	5000 Round Hill	21 12	1s	—	
5000 Mendip Hills (lead), Somerset	3s	2s	2 1/2	—	0 17 6	0 7 6—Dec., 1852.	1500 Devon Great Tin Min.	—	—	—	5000 Round Hill	21 12	1s	—	
5000 Merlin (lead), Flint	2s	—	—	—	0 6 6	0 14 0—Jan., 1851.	1500 Devon Great Tin Min.	—	—	—	5000 Round Hill	21 12	1s	—	
2000 Mining Co. of Ireland (copper, lead, coal)	7	10s	16s	—	0 3 9	0 1 3—Nov., 1852.	1500 Devon Great Tin Min.	—	—	—	5000 Round Hill	21 12	1s	—	
5000 Nantlle Vay (slate), Llanllidiol	1	—	—	—	—	—	1500 Devon Great Tin Min.	—	—	—	5000 Round Hill	21 12			